

# JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

A SOLDIER FOR JUSTICE





The route to your roots

## JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

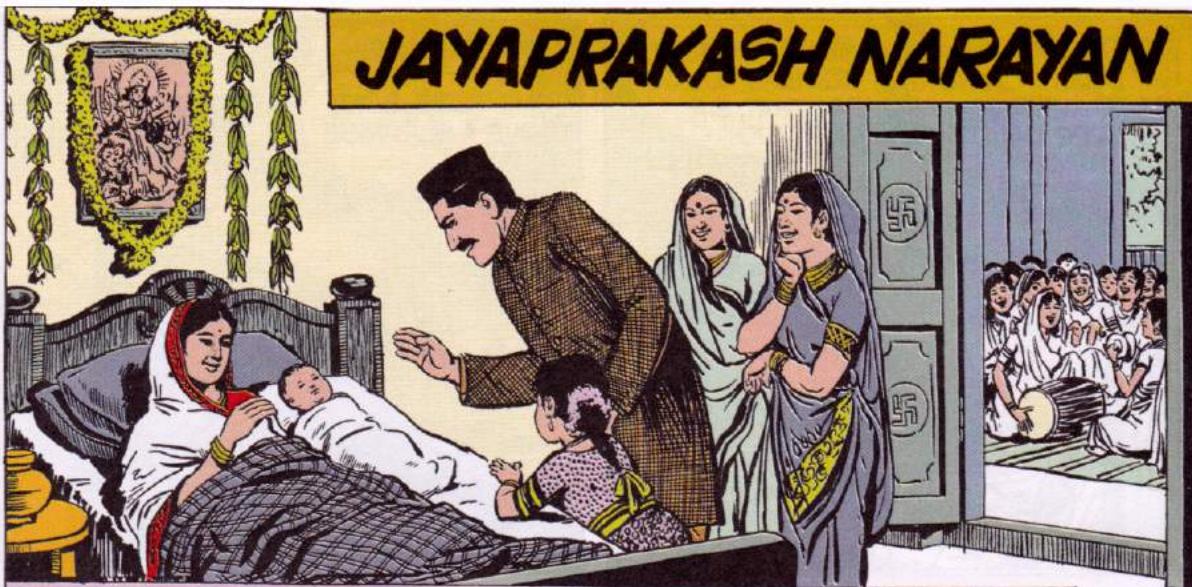
Bandits and bullies both relied on his sense of fair play. When, as a boy, he tended to pet animals rather than play with his toys, people thought he was simple-headed. It was this spirit of kindness, however, that guided his lifelong fight against injustice and inequality. The rough and tumble of political life may have bewildered him, but the country recognised in Jayaprakash Narayan an honest, brilliant and selfless Gandhian.

Script  
Pushpa Bharati

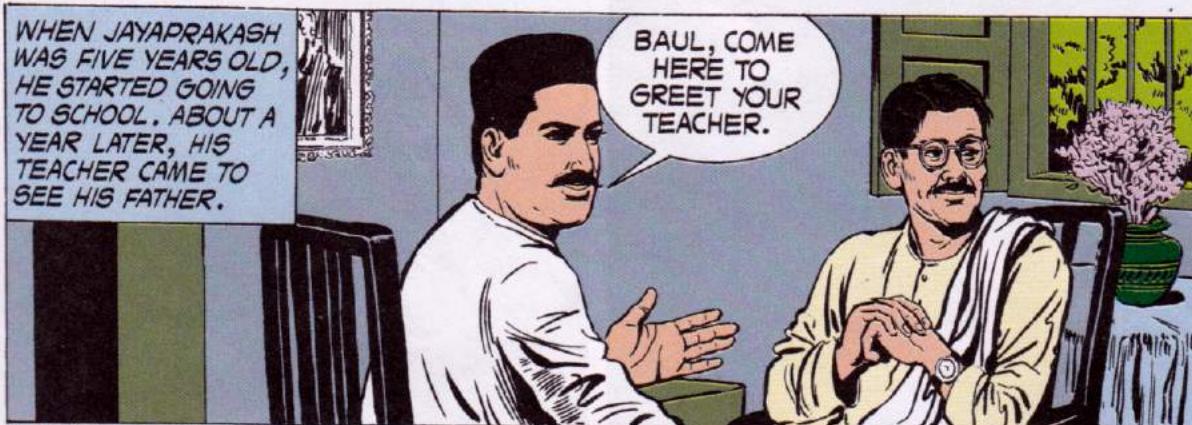
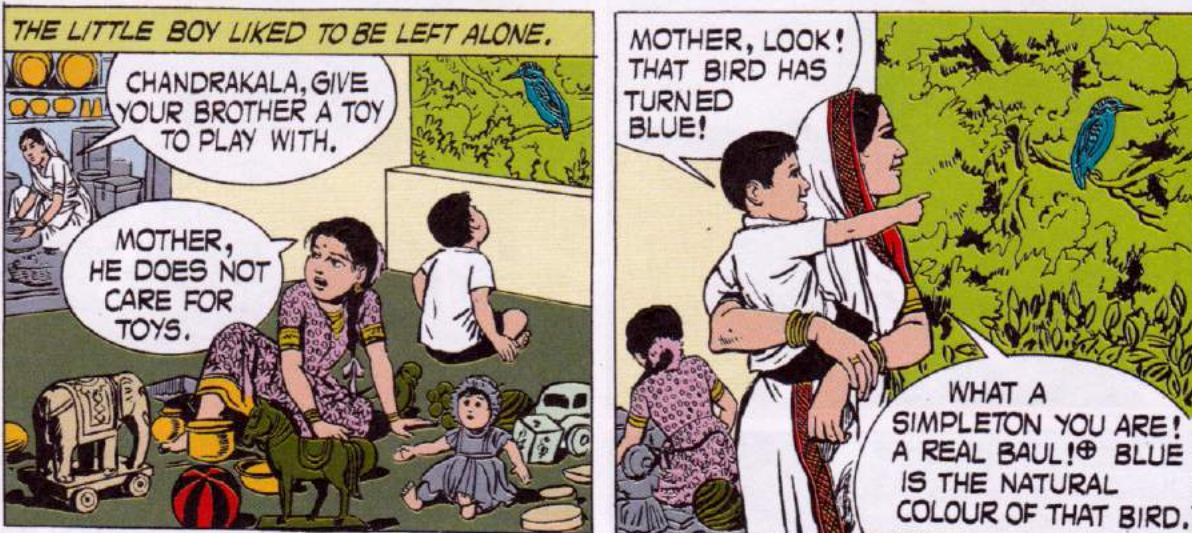
Illustrations  
C.M. Vitankar

Editor  
Anant Pai

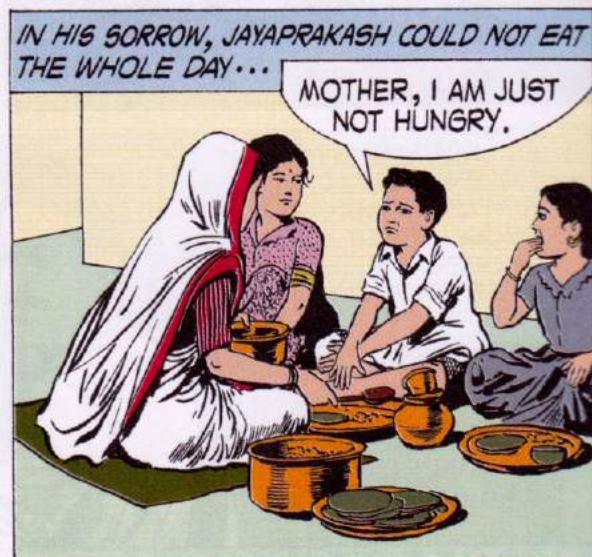
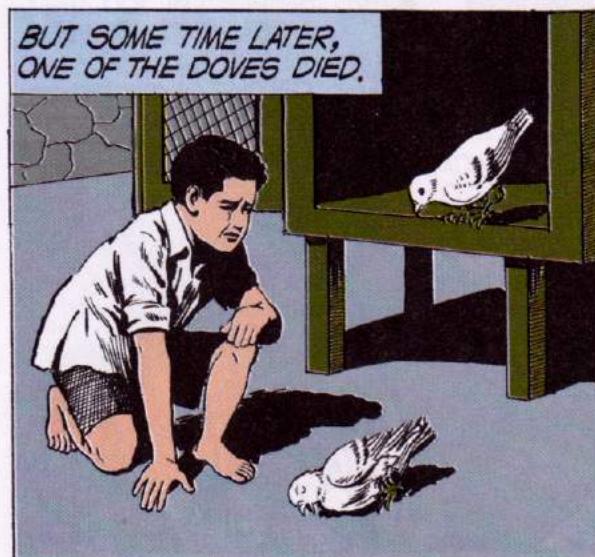
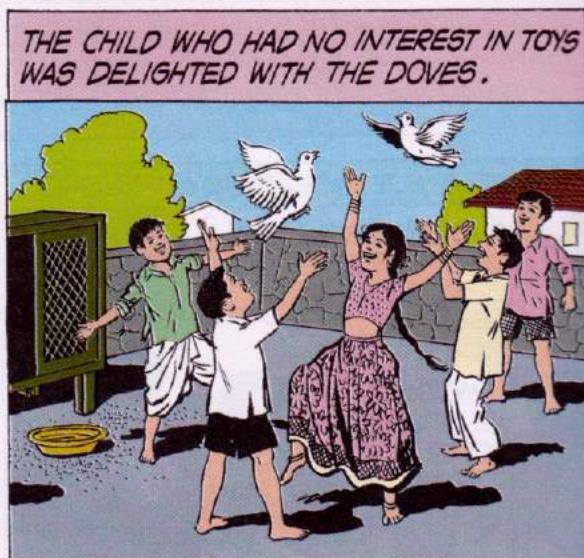
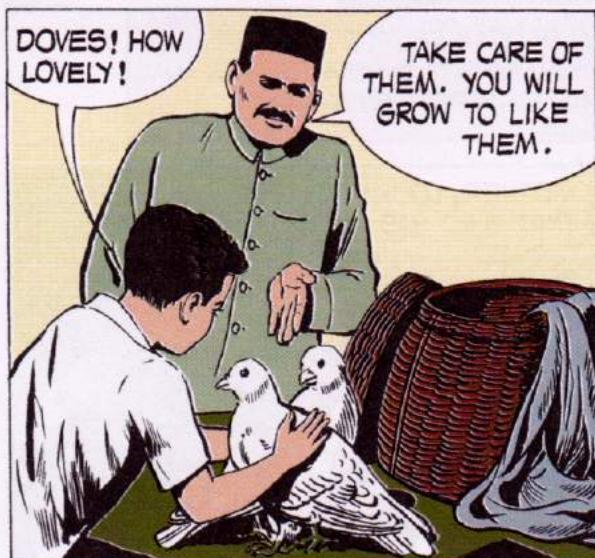
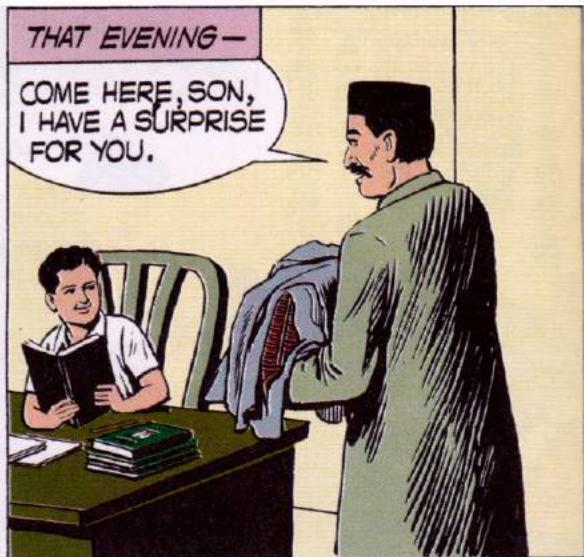
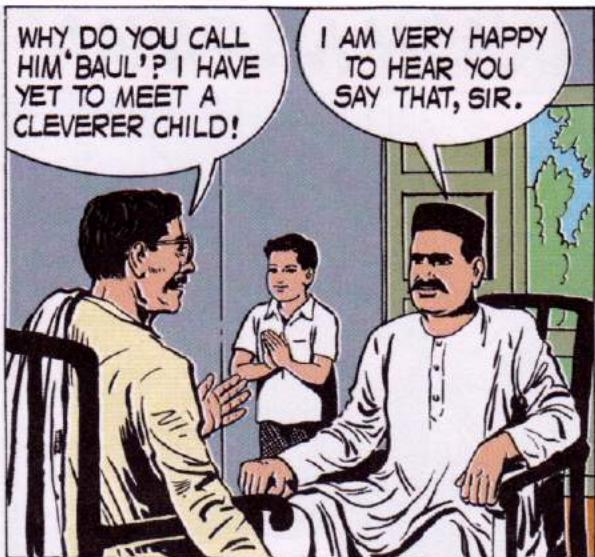
# JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

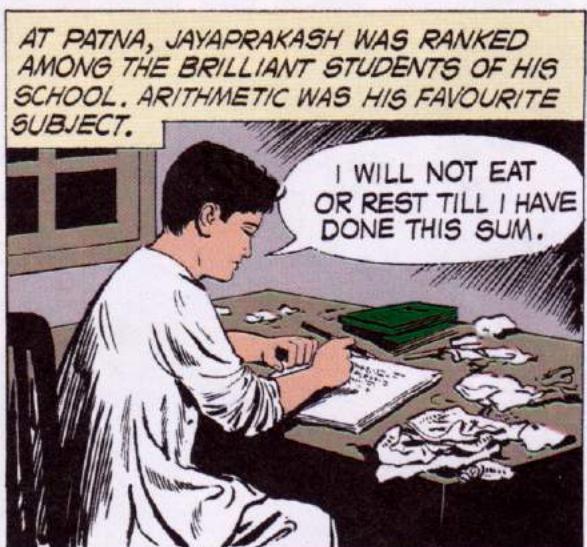
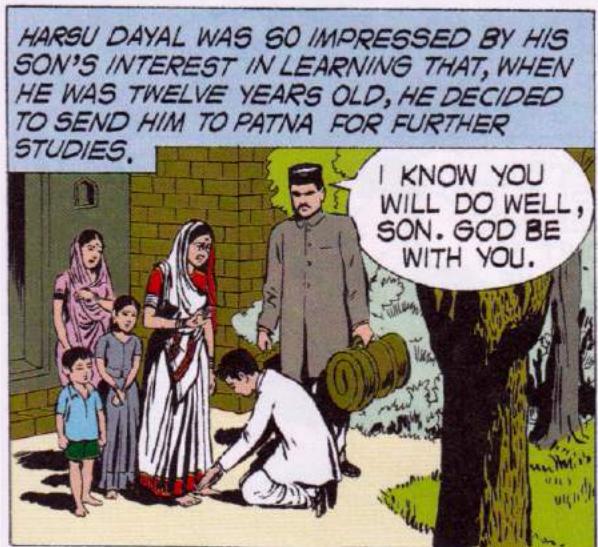
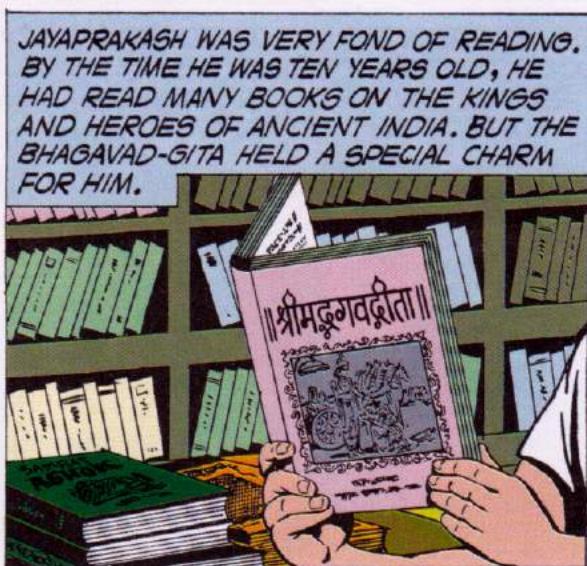
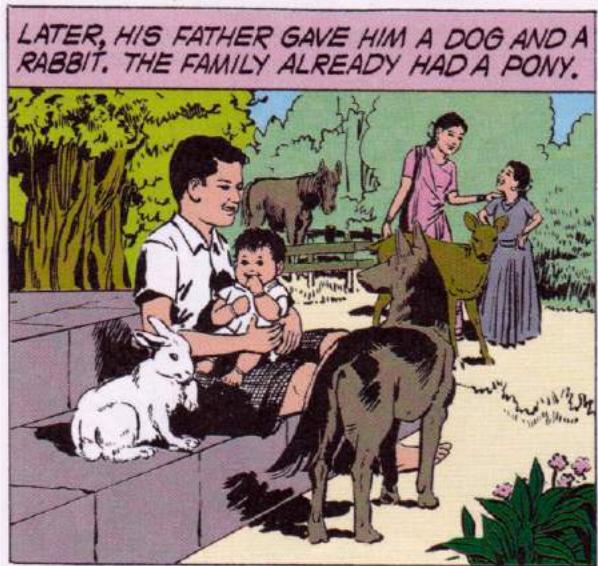
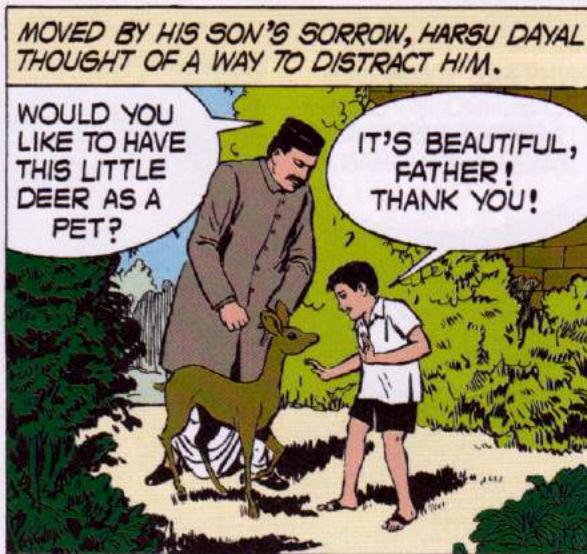


ON THE AUSPICIOUS DAY OF VIJAYA DASHAMI (11 TH OCTOBER, 1902 ), THERE WAS FESTIVITY IN THE HOUSE OF BABU HARSU DAYAL IN SITABDIARA.\* HIS WIFE, PHUL RANI, HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A SON. THE CHILD WAS NAMED JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN.



\*A VILLAGE ON THE CONFLUENCE OF THE GANGA AND THE GARAYU ON THE U.P.-BIHAR BORDER  
⊕A SIMPLETON





JAYAPRAKASH LIVED AT SARASWATI BHAVAN HOSTEL. ONE MORNING—

WHY ARE YOU GOING  
TO SCHOOL? TODAY  
IT IS THE FESTIVAL OF  
RAKSHA BANDHAN.\*

BUT OUR  
HEADMASTER  
HAS REFUSED  
TO DECLARE  
A HOLIDAY!

HE IS AN ENGLISHMAN, SO HE DOESN'T  
KNOW THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS  
FESTIVAL. I CAN'T ACCEPT HIS DECISION.  
I WILL NOT ATTEND SCHOOL TODAY.

THE NEXT DAY, THE HEADMASTER, MR. WHITMORE,  
SENT FOR HIM.

JAYAPRAKASH, I KNOW  
YOU ARE A GOOD STUDENT AND  
I LIKE YOU. BUT IT IS MY DUTY TO  
PUNISH YOU FOR BOYCOTT-  
ING CLASSES.

JAYAPRAKASH GOT FIVE STROKES OF  
THE CANE.

I ADMIRE HIM FOR  
DOING HIS DUTY,  
HOWEVER UNPLEASANT  
IT IS.

JAYAPRAKASH'S ACT OF PROTEST DID NOT GO UN-  
NOTICED. HE WON THE HEARTS OF THE OLDER  
BOYS OF THE HOSTEL WHO WERE DEEPLY INTEREST-  
ED IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY.

JAYAPRAKASH,  
YOU MUST ATTEND  
OUR MEETINGS.  
WHY DON'T YOU  
COME WITH ME  
THIS EVENING?

CERTAINLY,  
I WILL COME.

\* A RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL, WHEN FRATERNAL TIES ARE STRENGTHENED BY THE TYING OF THE SYMBOLIC THREAD

THE MEETINGS WERE HELD IN THE ROOM OF CHHOTAN SINGH, ONE OF THE STUDENTS.



JAYAPRAKASH ALSO TOOK TO ATTENDING THE MEETINGS OF THE SENIOR STUDENTS IN THE HOSTEL.

WE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM. KHUDIRAM BOSE\* HAS SHOWN US THE WAY.

THAT'S RIGHT! BOMBS AND FIREARMS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR OUR STRUGGLE!

NO! GANDHI HAS SHOWN A BETTER WAY IN CHAMPARAN—BY BRINGING TO HEEL THE INDIGO SAHIBS THROUGH HIS NON-VIOLENT SATYA-GRAHA. WE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS WAY.



YOU ARE WRONG. WE MUST OCCUPY ALL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS BY FORCE AND FINISH OFF THE BRITISH WITH BOMBS!

KILL THE WHITES! SACK THE WHITES!

WHEN HE WAS SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD, JAYAPRAKASH PASSED HIS MATRICULATION EXAMINATION WITH FIRST CLASS MARKS AND HE WAS AWARDED A MERIT SCHOLARSHIP. HE OPTED FOR FURTHER STUDIES IN SCIENCE.



\* THE FIRST REVOLUTIONARY TO THROW A BOMB AT AN ENGLISHMAN

BUT HIS HEART WAS IN LITERATURE AND HIS FAITH IN THE GITA. DURING FREE PERIODS—

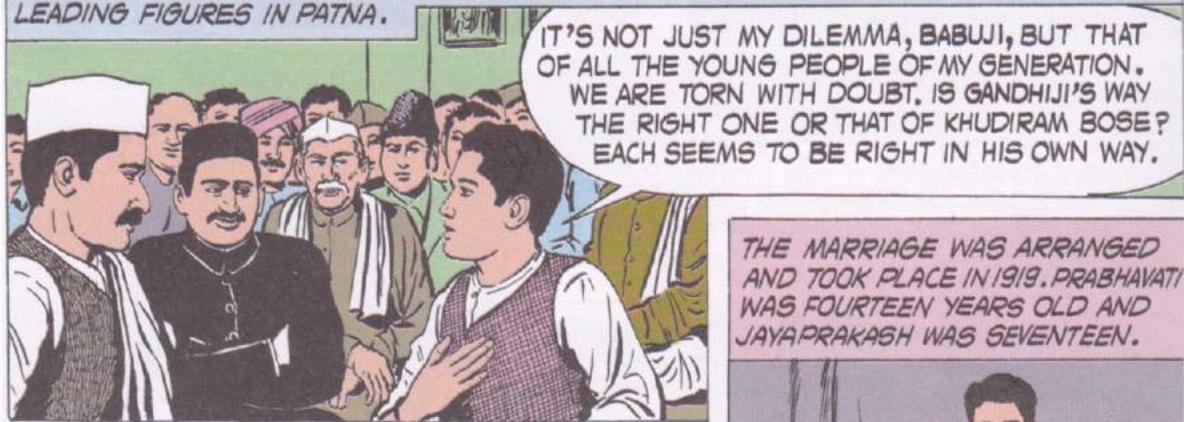
IF WE DID OUR DUTY WITH FAITH AND SINCERITY, THE DESIRE FOR REWARD WOULD NOT ARISE AT ALL.

THE WAY YOU EXPLAIN IT, THE GITA SEEMS SO EASY TO GRASP.



IT WAS DURING THIS TIME THAT THROUGH HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, BRAJ BEHARI SAHAI, JAYAPRAKASH CAME IN CONTACT WITH RAJENDRA PRASAD AND BRAJ KISHORE BABU WHO WERE LEADING FIGURES IN PATNA.

IT'S NOT JUST MY DILEMMA, BABUJI, BUT THAT OF ALL THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF MY GENERATION. WE ARE TORN WITH DOUBT. IS GANDHIJI'S WAY THE RIGHT ONE OR THAT OF KHUDIRAM BOSE? EACH SEEMS TO BE RIGHT IN HIS OWN WAY.

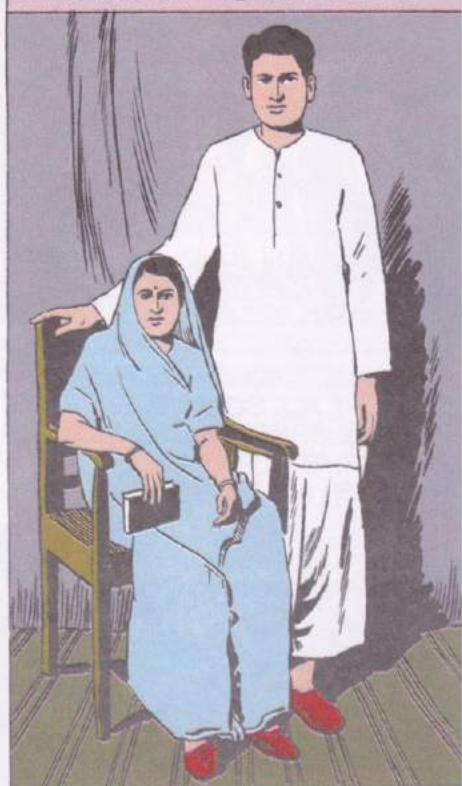
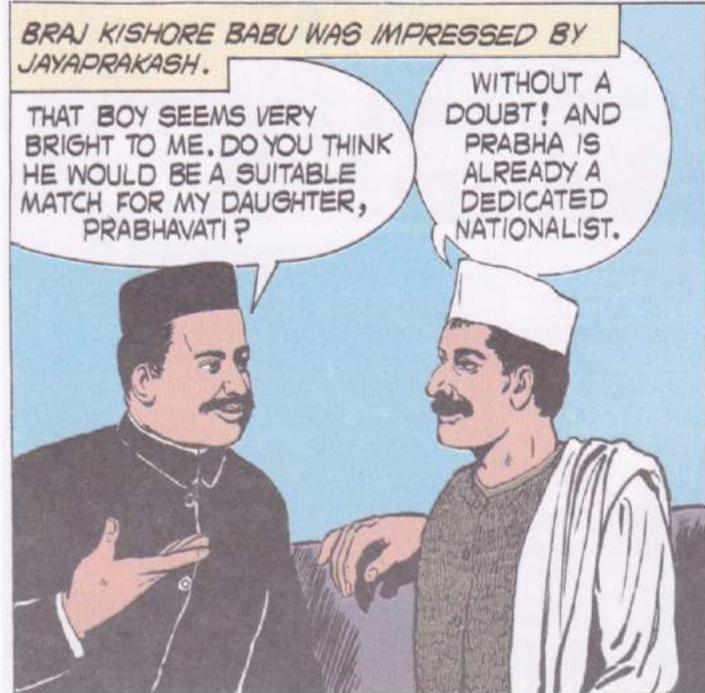


THE MARRIAGE WAS ARRANGED AND TOOK PLACE IN 1919. PRABHAVATI WAS FOURTEEN YEARS OLD AND JAYAPRAKASH WAS SEVENTEEN.

BRAJ KISHORE BABU WAS IMPRESSED BY JAYAPRAKASH.

THAT BOY SEEMS VERY BRIGHT TO ME. DO YOU THINK HE WOULD BE A SUITABLE MATCH FOR MY DAUGHTER, PRABHAVATI?

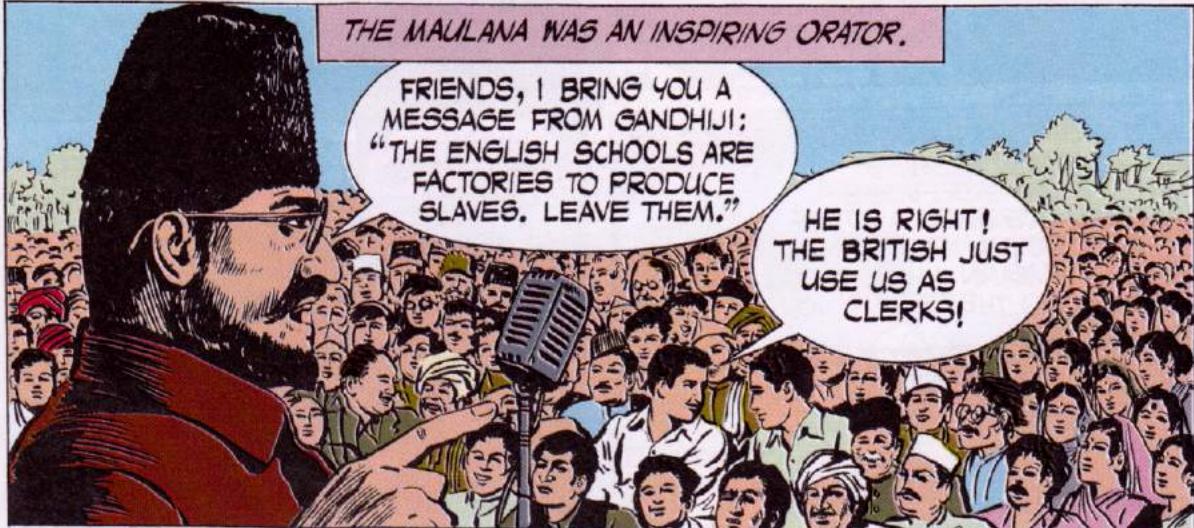
WITHOUT A DOUBT! AND PRABHA IS ALREADY A DEDICATED NATIONALIST.



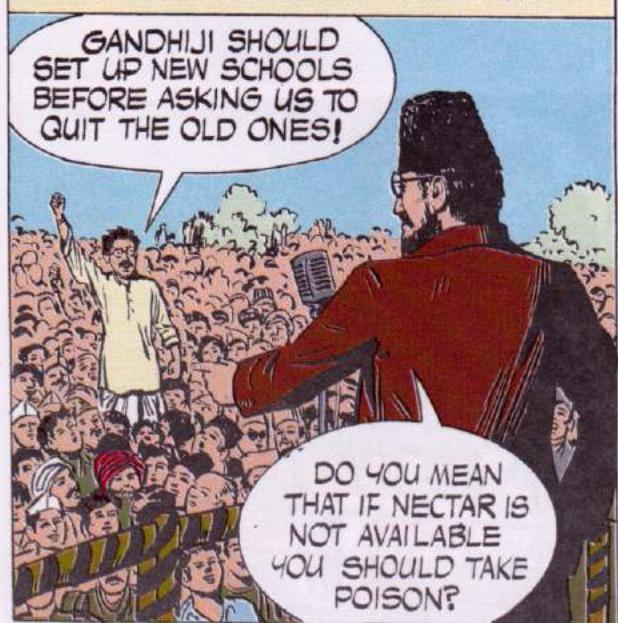
IN JANUARY 1921, JAYAPRAKASH WAS PREPARING FOR HIS FINAL EXAMINATION, WHEN—



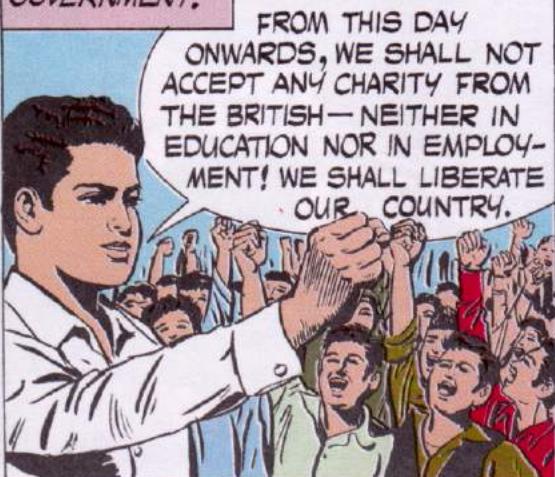
THE MAULANA WAS AN INSPIRING ORATOR.



SOMEONE IN THE AUDIENCE PROTESTED—



INSPIRED BY MAULANA AZAD'S EXHORTATIONS, JAYAPRAKASH AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER YOUNG MEN LEFT THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES WHICH RECEIVED GRANTS FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.



IN THE SAME YEAR, JAYAPRAKASH PASSED THE INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION IN THE FIRST DIVISION FROM THE BIHAR VIDYAPEETH.

NOW YOU MUST CONTINUE YOUR STUDIES AT THE KASHI VISHVAVIDYALAYA, SON.

BUT I CAN'T GO TO ANY INSTITUTION WHICH RECEIVES A GOVERNMENT GRANT!

IN THAT CASE, BRAJ KISHORE BABU FEELS THAT YOU SHOULD GO TO LONDON.

GO TO THE VERY COUNTRY WHICH HAS ENSLAVED US? FATHER, PLEASE DO NOT ASK ME TO GO THERE!

THAT NIGHT, JAYAPRAKASH REVEALED HIS THOUGHTS TO HIS WIFE.

PRABHA, I'VE GIVEN A LOT OF THOUGHT TO MY STUDIES. IN THE UNITED STATES, STUDENTS EARN WHILE THEY LEARN. I COULD GO THERE, BUT YOU....

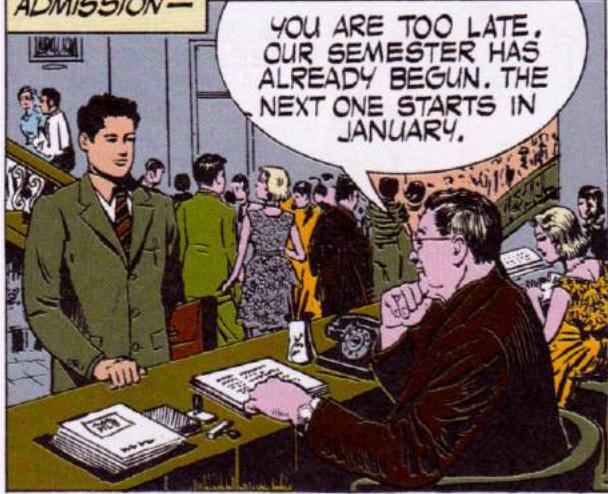
YOU WILL NEVER FIND ME A HINDRANCE. GO AHEAD AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO GO THERE.

I WISH I COULD TAKE YOU WITH ME! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I WILL GO AND STAY WITH GANDHJI AT THE SABARMATI ASHRAM.

ON AUGUST 16, 1922, JAYAPRAKASH SAILED FOR THE UNITED STATES.



IN THE UNITED STATES, JAYAPRAKASH PLANNED TO STUDY AT BERKELEY BUT WHEN HE WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY FOR ADMISSION—



HE WENT BACK TO THE NALANDA CLUB, THE INEXPENSIVE PLACE AT BERKELEY WHERE INDIANS LIVED.

DON'T LOSE HEART. YOU CAN EARN SOME MONEY TILL THE NEXT SEMESTER.

THAT'S RIGHT! MANY INDIANS WORK AT MARYSVILLE AS FOREMEN. WHY DON'T YOU GO THERE?



JAYAPRAKASH DECIDED TO GO TO MARYSVILLE.

WE HAVE HEARD A LOT ABOUT GANDHI'S AGITATION. WILL HE SUCCEED BY THESE METHODS IN GAINING FREEDOM?

THE AGITATION HAS BEEN CRUSHED FOR THE MOMENT BUT WE SHALL NOT GIVE UP EASILY.

SHER KHAN, THE OVERSEER, WAS DELIGHTED TO MEET AND HEAR THE NEWCOMER.

I SHOULD KISS YOUR FEET BECAUSE YOU HAVE JUST COME FROM INDIA!



SHER KHAN DIRECTED HIM TO A VINEYARD. JAYAPRAKASH WORKED FOR NINE HOURS EVERY DAY. IT WAS HERE THAT HE LEARNT TO LOVE THE DOWNTRODDEN AND THE POOR.

IN THE EVENING, YOU MUST COME AND EAT WITH US. WHILE YOU ARE HERE, WE WILL EAT ONLY VEGETARIAN FOOD.

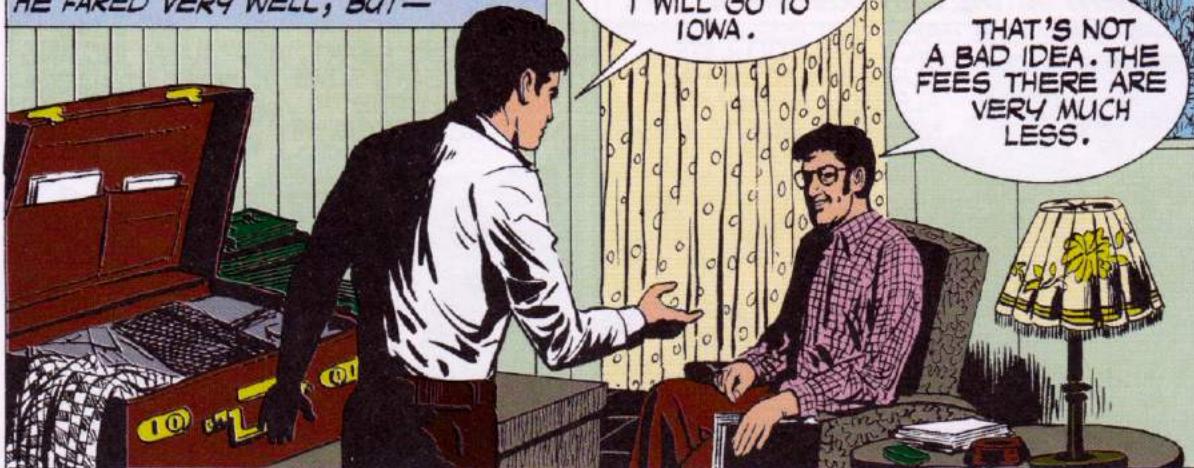


SHER KHAN, I FEEL AS IF I'VE FOUND A LONG-LOST BROTHER IN YOU!

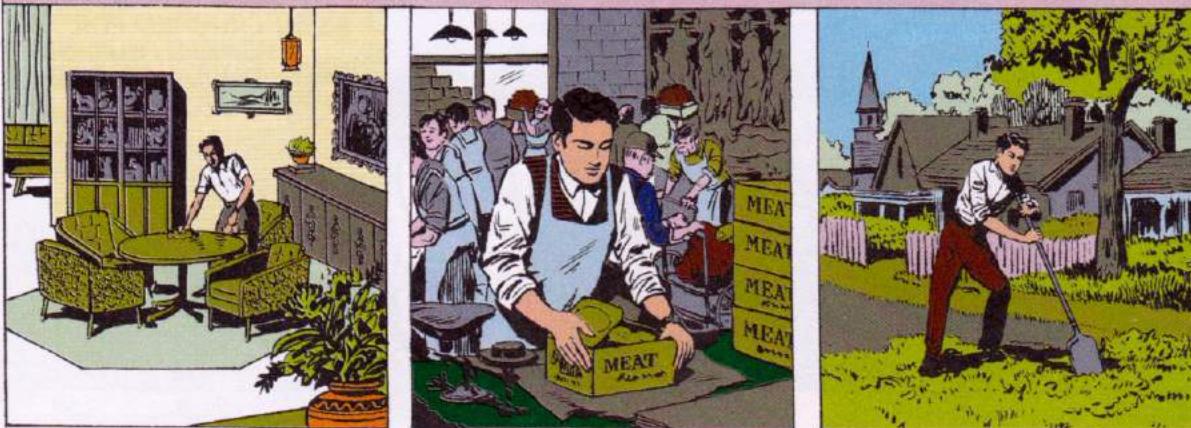
IN JANUARY, JAYAPRAKASH JOINED THE UNIVERSITY OF BERKELEY WHERE HE FARED VERY WELL, BUT—

THIS UNIVERSITY IS TOO EXPENSIVE.  
I WILL GO TO IOWA.

THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA. THE FEES THERE ARE VERY MUCH LESS.



HE SPENT A YEAR AT IOWA. BUT EVEN THERE HE HAD TO WORK HARD TO EARN ENOUGH TO PAY HIS WAY THROUGH COLLEGE.



AT IOWA UNIVERSITY, JAYAPRAKASH BECAME POPULAR WITH HIS TEACHERS AND FELLOW STUDENTS. AFFECTIONATELY, THEY ABRIDGED HIS NAME TO "JP".

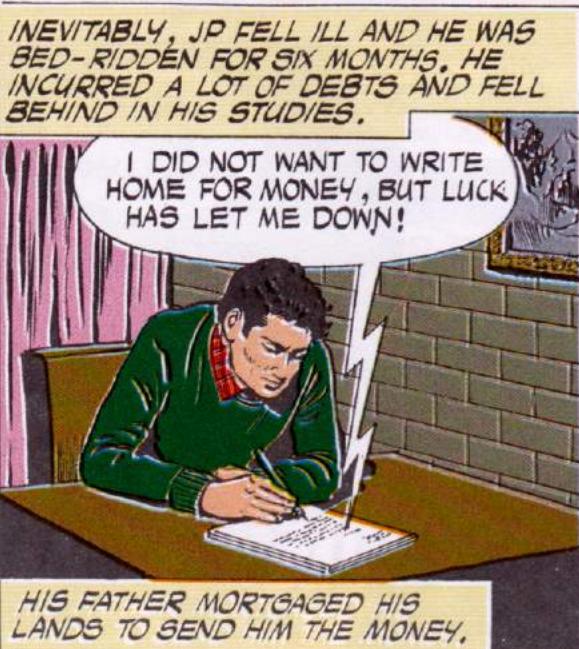
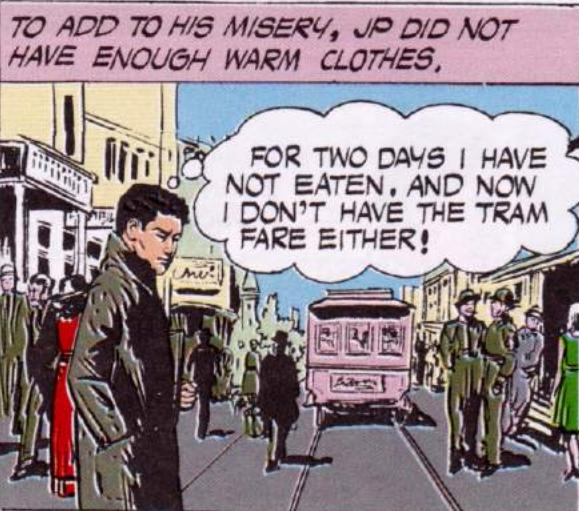
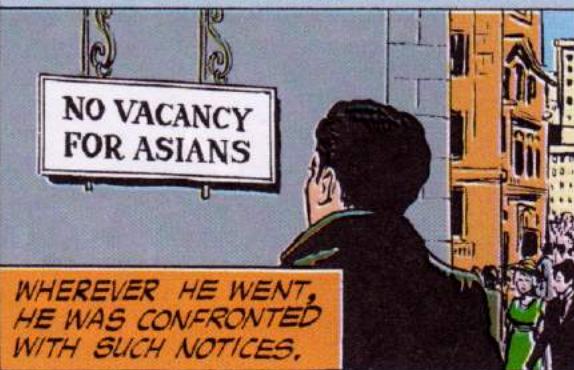
FROM CHICAGO HE WENT TO MADISON WHERE HE MET A POLISH JEW, ABRAM LANDY, WHO INTRODUCED HIM TO THE BOOKS OF KARL MARX.



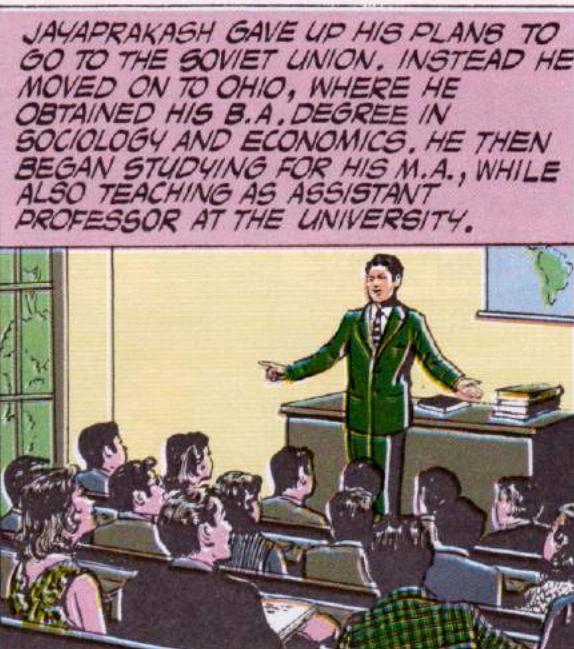
**INFLUENCED BY COMMUNIST THOUGHT, JP DECIDED TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION.**



**IN THE WINTER OF 1926, HE RETURNED TO CHICAGO. IN THE MORNINGS HE WOULD TAKE JUST ONE CUP OF COFFEE AND GO OUT TO LOOK FOR A JOB. BUT—**



**HIS FATHER MORTGAGED HIS LANDS TO SEND HIM THE MONEY.**

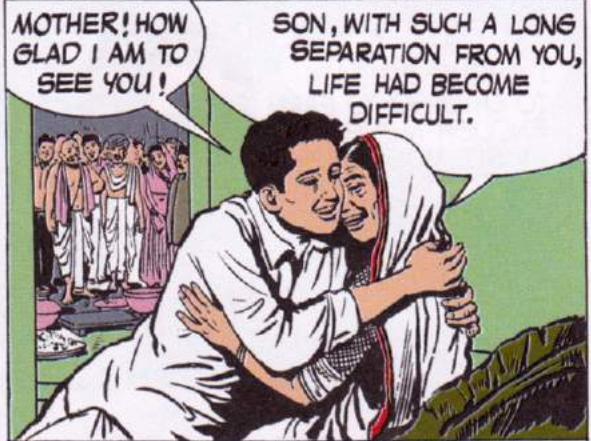


HIS THESIS, "SOCIAL VARIATIONS", SUBMITTED FOR HIS MASTER'S DEGREE, WAS ADJUDGED THE BEST THAT YEAR. THEN HE DECIDED TO ENROL FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE, BUT HE RECEIVED DISTURBING NEWS FROM HOME —



AFTER SEVEN YEARS ABROAD, JP RETURNED HOME ON NOVEMBER 23, 1929. HE WAS THEN TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD.

MOTHER! HOW GLAD I AM TO SEE YOU!



JP SPENT A FEW DAYS WITH HIS PARENTS AND THEN LEFT TO SEE PRABHAVATI. SHE WAS IN SRINAGAR WITH HER FATHER.

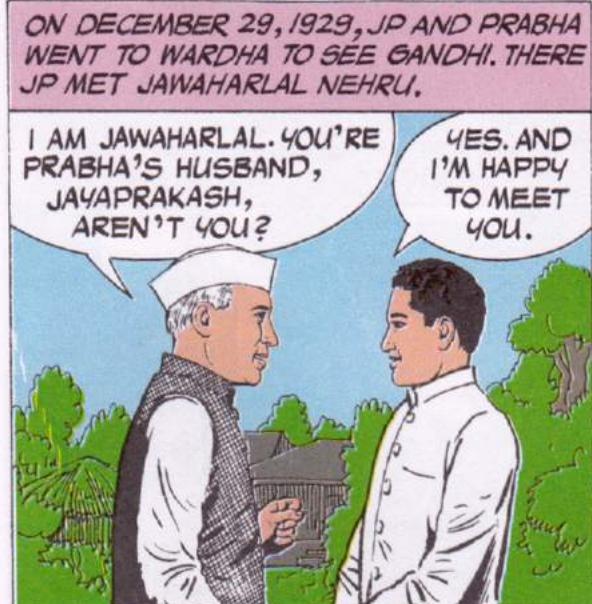
YOU'VE COME BACK AT A GOOD TIME. INDIA NEEDS DEDICATED MEN TO WORK FOR HER.



DURING THE SEVEN YEARS THAT JP WAS IN AMERICA, THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IN INDIA HAD GAINED MOMENTUM UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GANDHI.

ON DECEMBER 29, 1929, JP AND PRABHA WENT TO WARDHA TO SEE GANDHI. THERE JP MET JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.

I AM JAWAHARLAL. YOU'RE PRABHA'S HUSBAND, JAYAPRAKASH, AREN'T YOU?

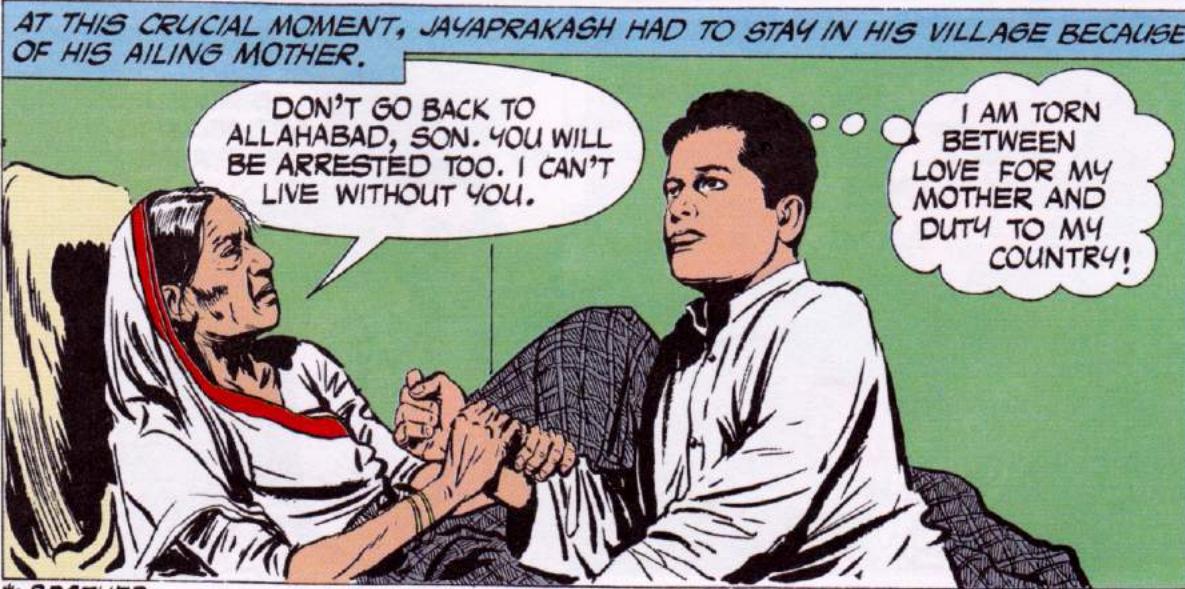
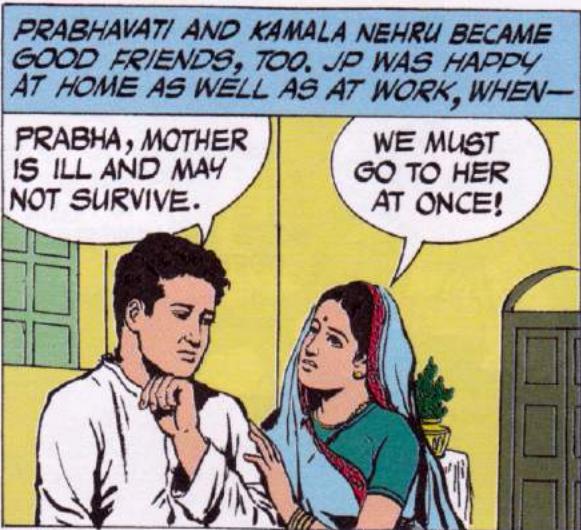
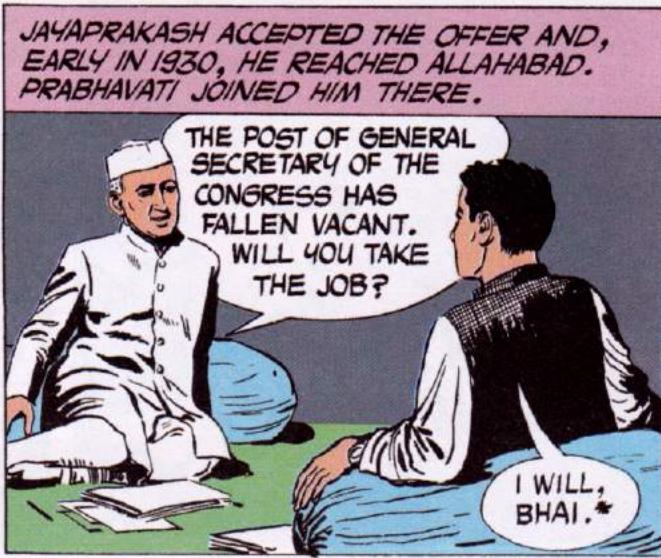
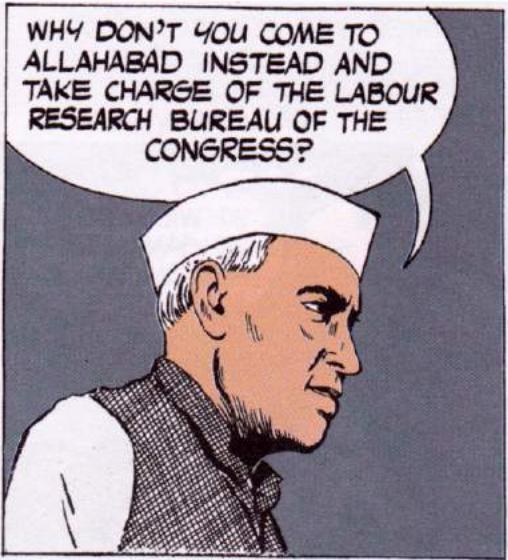


YES. AND I'M HAPPY TO MEET YOU.

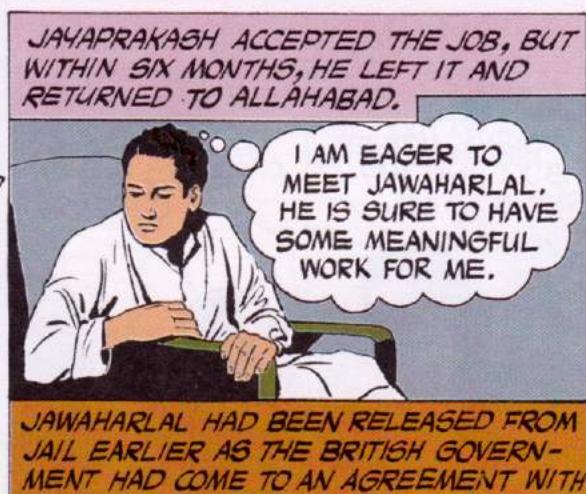
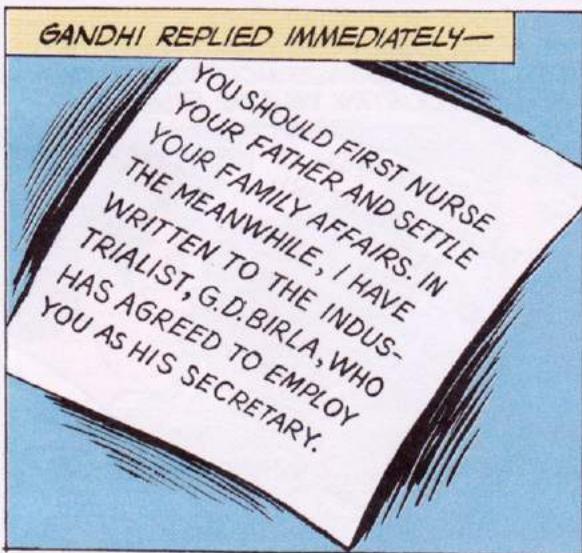
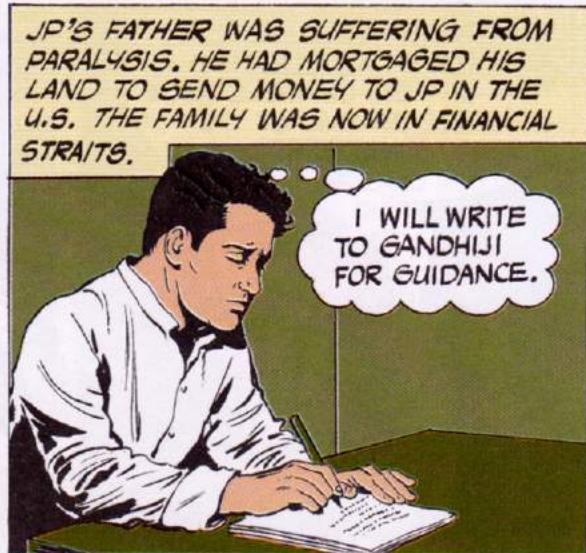
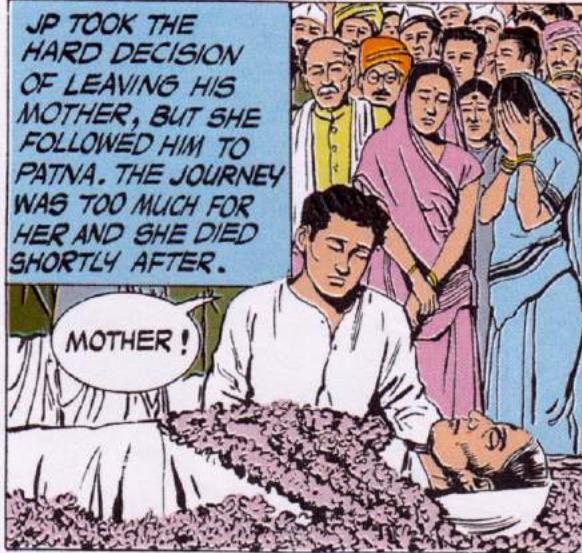
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NEXT?

I WANT TO TEACH SOCIOLOGY.

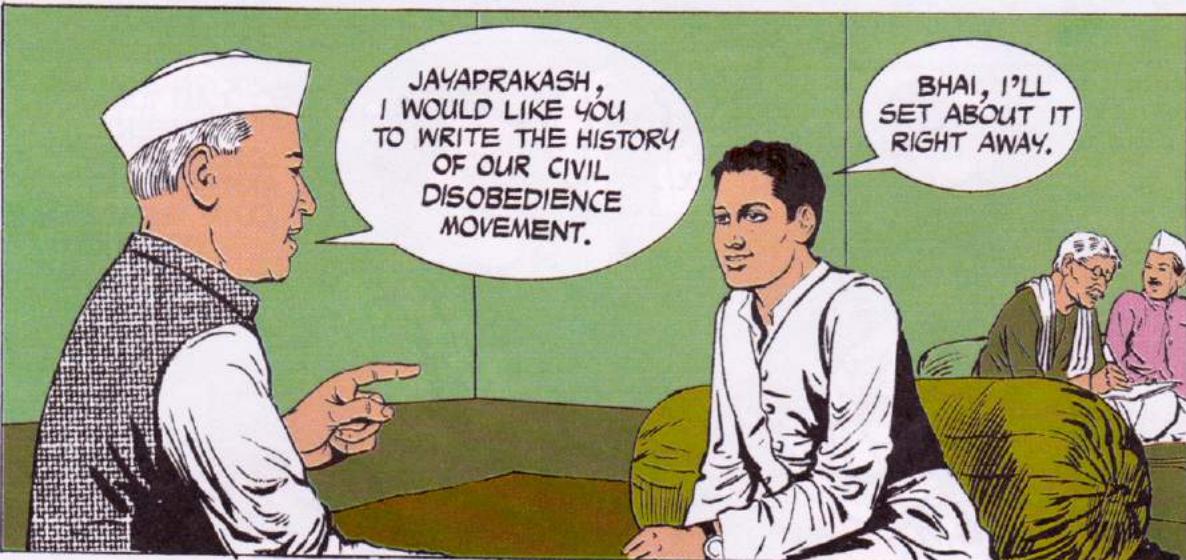




\* BROTHER



JAWAHARLAL HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM JAIL EARLIER AS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CONGRESS PARTY AND THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT HAD BEEN CALLED OFF.



JAYPRAKASH NARAYAN

A YEAR LATER, THE CONGRESS RENEWED THE MOVEMENT FOLLOWING THE BREAK-DOWN OF TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. JAWAHARLAL HAD TO LEAVE FOR BOMBAY TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE.

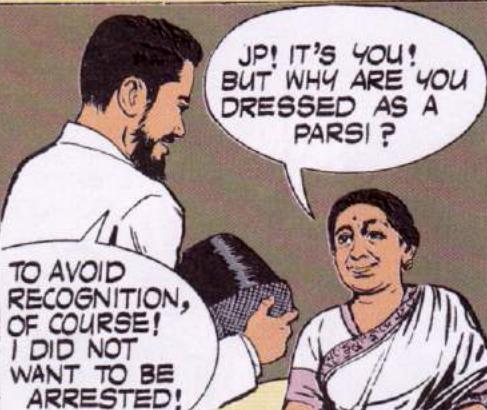
JAYPRAKASH,  
I EXPECT TO BE  
ARRESTED ON THE WAY.  
HERE ARE IMPORTANT  
PAPERS WHICH SHOULD  
NOT FALL INTO THE HANDS  
OF THE POLICE. SOMEHOW  
THESE MUST REACH  
BOMBAY FOR THE  
MEETING.

LEAVE  
THAT TO ME,  
Bhai.

NEHRU'S FEARS WERE JUSTIFIED; HE WAS ARRESTED. MEANWHILE JAYAPRAKASH PREPARED TO GO TO BOMBAY IN DISGUISE.



HE ELUDED THE POLICE AND LANDED IN BOMBAY. HE WENT STRAIGHT TO MRS. SAROJINI NAIDU, ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS, AND GAVE HER THE PAPERS.



IN BOMBAY, JAYAPRAKASH DID A LOT OF UNDERGROUND WORK. AS SENIOR CONGRESS LEADERS WERE ARRESTED ONE AFTER ANOTHER, HE TOOK OVER MORE AND MORE ORGANISATIONAL WORK. BUT AT LAST ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1932, HE, TOO, WAS ARRESTED.

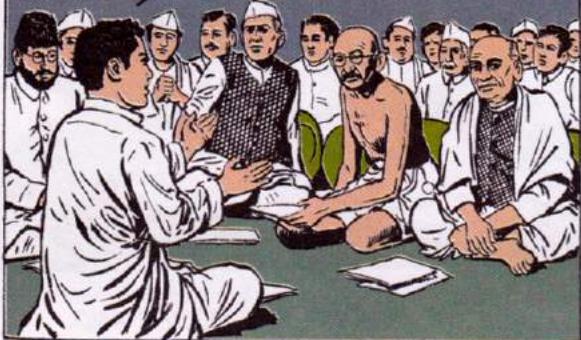


IN JAIL, HE MET ABOKA MEHTA, MINOO MASANI, ACHYUT PATWARDHAN, N.G. GORAY AND OTHERS, WITH WHOM HE HAD LONG DISCUSSIONS. AFTER HIS RELEASE, HE FORMED THE SOCIALIST CONGRESS WITHIN THE CONGRESS PARTY.



UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT 1935, PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY WAS GRANTED, BUT JP WAS NOT HAPPY.

I FEEL WE MUST INSIST ON COMPLETE SEPARATION FROM THE BRITISH EMPIRE.



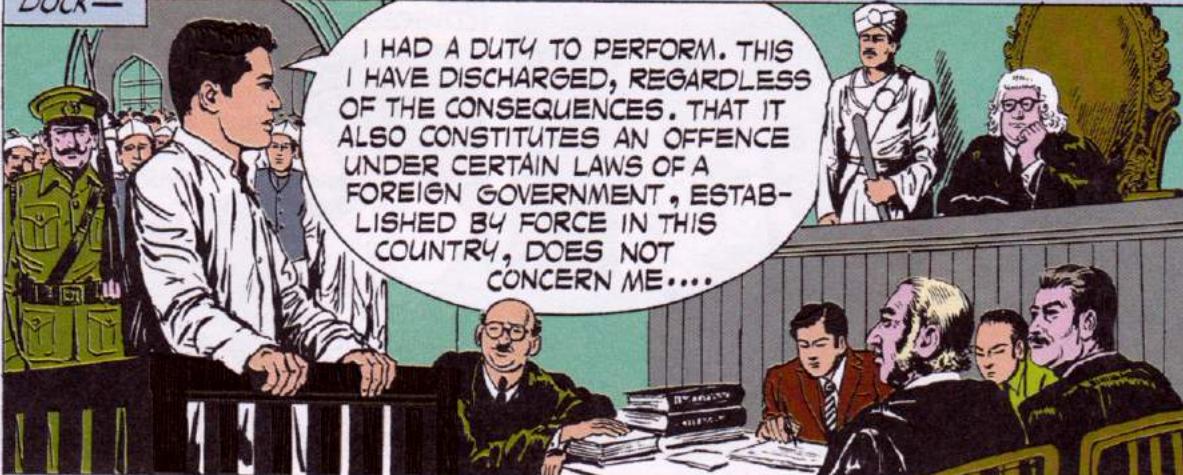
WHEN THE SECOND WORLD WAR BROKE OUT, JP DID NOT WANT INDIA INVOLVED IN IT. HE LED A STRIKE OF THE WORKERS OF AN ARMAMENT FACTORY.

WE WILL NOT BE A PARTY TO THIS WAR, FOR WE REGARD GERMAN NAZISM AND BRITISH IMPERIALISM AS EVIL AND BOTH AS OUR ENEMIES.



JP WAS ARRESTED FOR HIS ANTI-WAR ACTIVITIES. BUT HE DEFENDED HIMSELF IN THE DOCK—

I HAD A DUTY TO PERFORM. THIS I HAVE DISCHARGED, REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES. THAT IT ALSO CONSTITUTES AN OFFENCE UNDER CERTAIN LAWS OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT, ESTABLISHED BY FORCE IN THIS COUNTRY, DOES NOT CONCERN ME....



GANDHI STRONGLY CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ARRESTING JAYAPRAKASH. IN HIS PAPER, HARIJAN, HE WROTE —

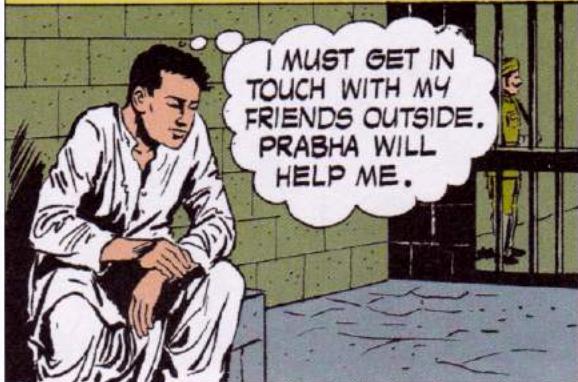
SHRI JAYAPRAKASH HAS FORSAKEN ALL FOR THE SAKE OF THE DELIVERANCE OF HIS COUNTRY.... HIS CAPACITY FOR SUFFERING IS NOT EXCELLED. IS THIS ARREST A PRE-ARRANGED PLAN...?

JP WAS SENTENCED AND IMPRISONED. WHILE SERVING HIS TERM AT HAZARIBAGH JAIL, HE LEARNED THAT THE CONGRESS HAD OFFERED TO CO-OPERATE IN THE WAR IN RETURN FOR A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW DELHI.

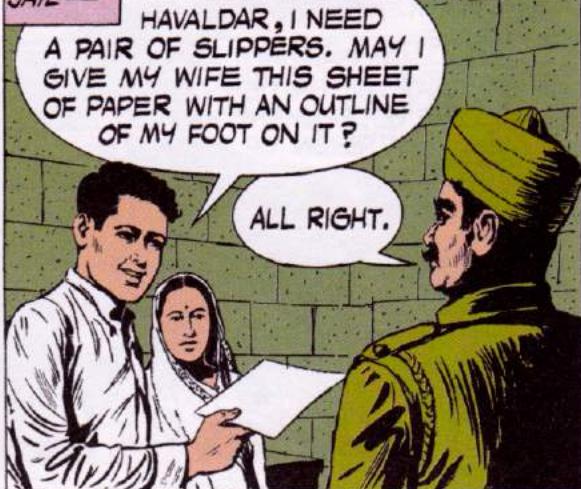
NO, THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE AGREED. SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO ORGANISE A MASS STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM.



SOON AFTER HIS RELEASE, JAYAPRAKASH LEFT FOR BOMBAY TO ORGANISE AN UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT, ONLY TO BE ARRESTED ON ARRIVAL. HE WAS SENT TO A JAIL IN DEOLI, IN RAJPUTANA.\*



LATER, WHEN HIS WIFE VISITED HIM IN JAIL —



JAYAPRAKASH WAS TAKEN TO THE JAIL SUPERINTENDENT.

SMUGGLING OUT LETTERS! AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELF?

NO, I'M NOT ASHAMED. I AM ONLY SORRY THAT I DID NOT SUCCEED.



THE NEXT DAY, THE COUNTRY LEARNT OF THIS INCIDENT. THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED A LONG COMMUNIQUE.

PLANS TO CONTACT TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS... WERE SEIZED FROM MR. JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN... WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO PASS THEM OUT OF JAIL THROUGH HIS WIFE....



\* NOW CALLED RAJASTHAN

LATER, JP WAS TRANSFERRED TO HAZARIBAGH JAIL. NEW PRISONERS KEPT POURING IN, BRINGING NEWS ABOUT THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE.

GANDHIJI HAS DEMANDED THAT THE BRITISH QUIT INDIA. THE GOVERNMENT HAS LET LOOSE A REIGN OF TERROR!

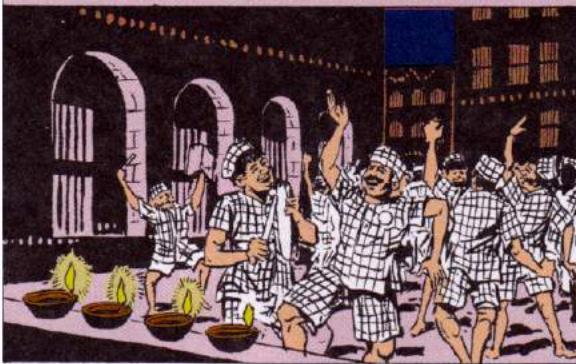


JP EXPLODED.

WHY ARE WE HERE! WE SHOULD BE RIGHT AT THE CENTRE OF IT ALL! WE SHOULD BE TAKING PART IN THE REVOLT!



JP WORKED OUT A PLAN OF ESCAPE. ON THE NIGHT OF DIWALI IN NOVEMBER 1942, AS THE PRISONERS CELEBRATED ...



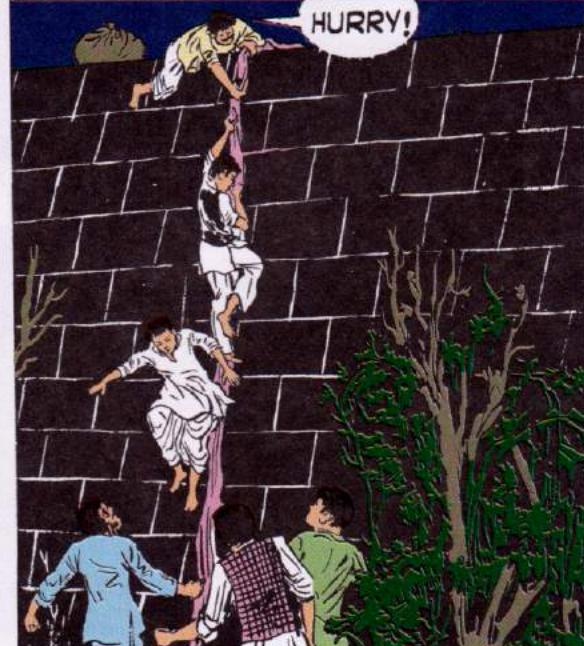
... JP AND FIVE OTHERS WAITED FOR AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT IN A DARK CORNER.



WHEN THE SENTRY HAD PASSED, THEY QUICKLY SET TO WORK —

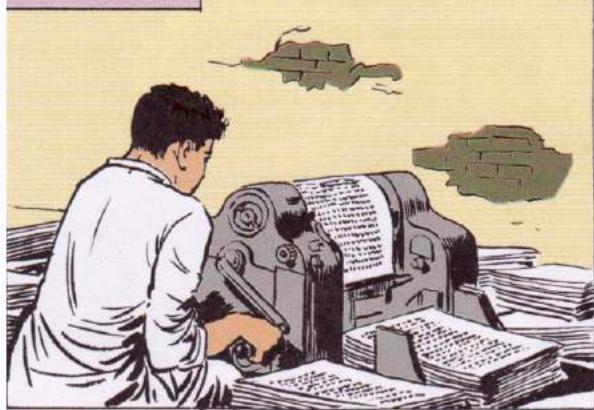


HURRY!





JP TOURED THE COUNTRY IN DISGUISE. HE SENT PRINTED AND CYCLOSTYLED LETTERS TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS ALL OVER INDIA.

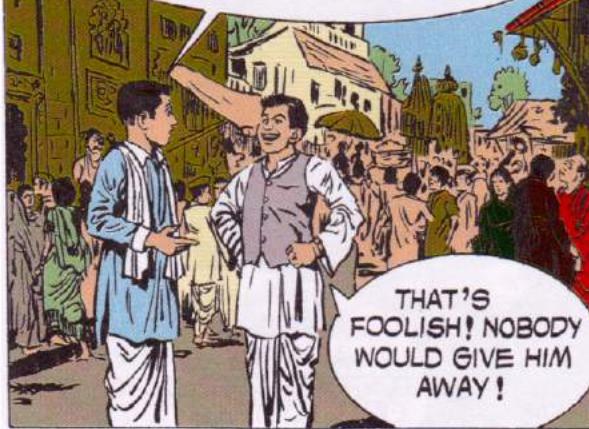


SOME OF THESE LETTERS FOUND THEIR WAY TO AN AMERICAN MILITARY INSTALLATION IN INDIA.



THE WHOLE COUNTRY SPOKE OF JAYAPRAKASH'S BOLD ESCAPE WITH PRIDE.

A REWARD OF TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND RUPEES HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO HIS ARREST.



JP SET UP A TRAINING CENTRE NEAR THE KOSI RIVER IN BIHAR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA JOINED HIM THERE.

THE POLICE ARE ON OUR TRAIL. WE MUST GO INTO HIDING!



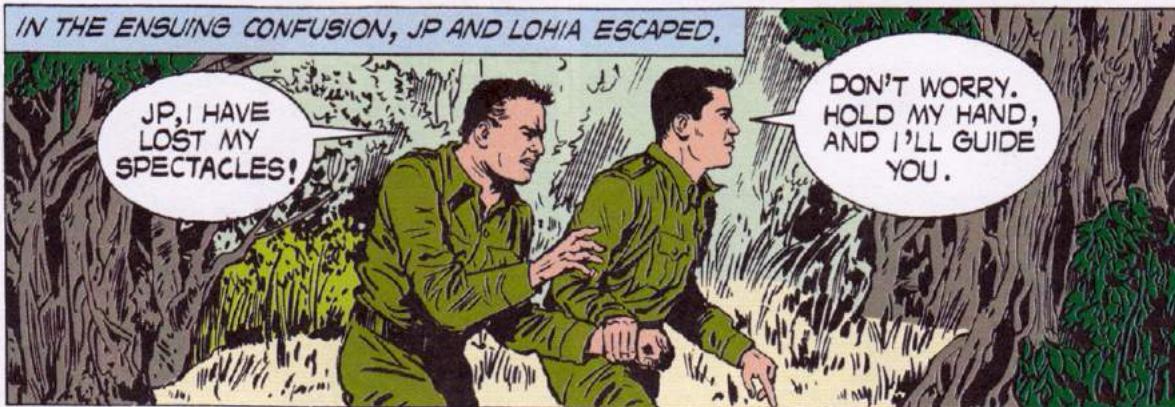
JP, WITH LOHIA AND OTHERS, TRIED TO SLIP ACROSS THE BORDER TO NEPAL, BUT THEY WERE ARRESTED BY THE NEPALESE POLICE A FEW DAYS LATER.



THE POLICE STATION TO WHICH THEY WERE TAKEN WAS BESIEGED BY JP'S ASSOCIATES.



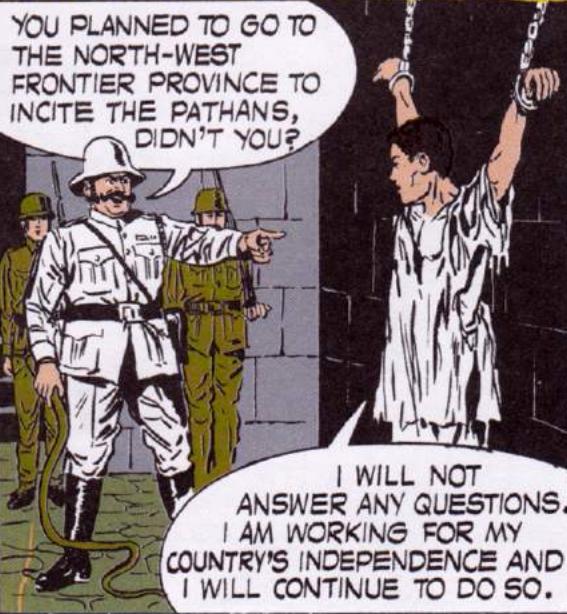
IN THE ENSUING CONFUSION, JP AND LOHIA ESCAPED.



RETURNING TO INDIA, HE RESUMED HIS REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES. ONCE, WHILE HE WAS TRAVELLING FROM AMRITSAR TO LAHORE, THE TRAIN WAS HALTED AT MUGHALPURA NEAR LAHORE.

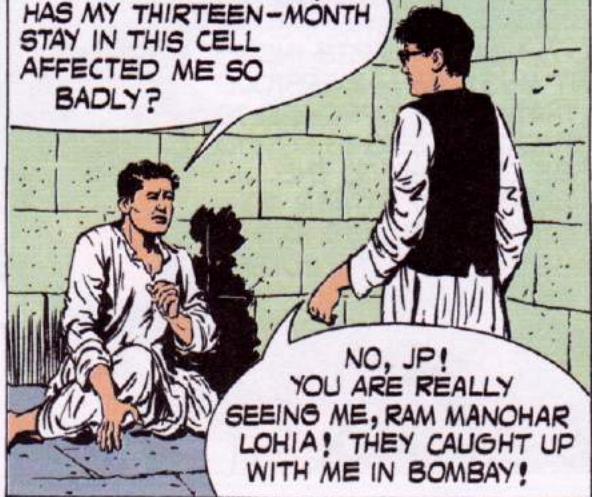


JP WAS TAKEN TO LAHORE JAIL AND SUBJECTED TO ENDLESS QUESTIONING.



ONE DAY—

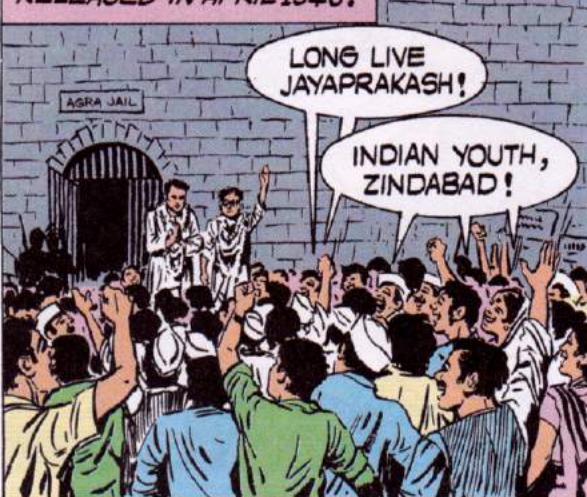
AM I SEEING THINGS?  
HAS MY THIRTEEN-MONTH  
STAY IN THIS CELL  
AFFECTED ME SO  
BADLY?



LATER, BOTH, JP AND LOHIA WERE TRANSFERRED TO AGRA JAIL. THEY WERE RELEASED IN APRIL 1946.

LONG LIVE JAYAPRAKASH!

INDIAN YOUTH,  
ZINDABAD!

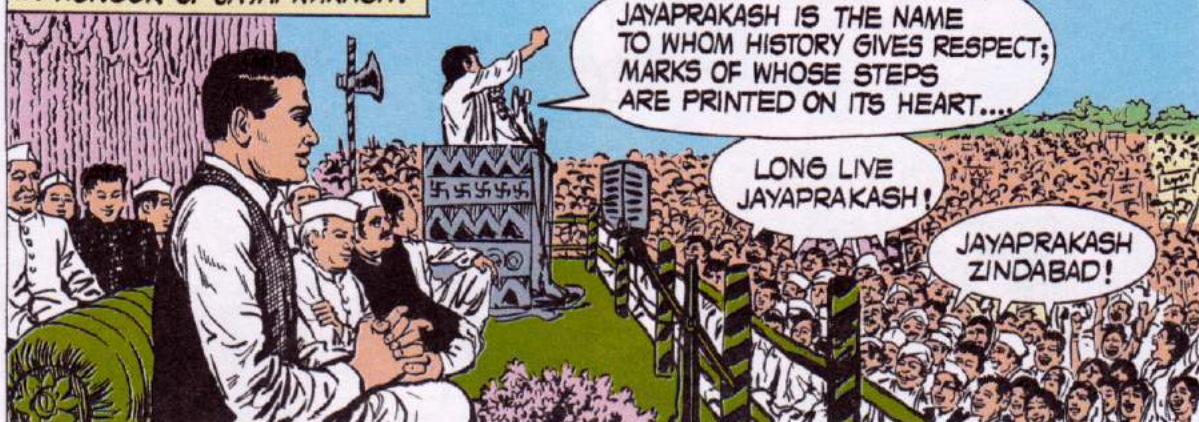


JP'S POPULARITY ALL OVER INDIA HAD INCREASED ENORMOUSLY. AT A MAMMOTH GATHERING, THE RENOWNED HINDI POET, DINKAR, RECITED A LONG POEM WRITTEN IN HONOUR OF JAYAPRAKASH.

JAYAPRAKASH IS THE NAME  
TO WHOM HISTORY GIVES RESPECT;  
MARKS OF WHOSE STEPS  
ARE PRINTED ON ITS HEART....

LONG LIVE  
JAYAPRAKASH!

JAYAPRAKASH  
ZINDABAD!



AS INDIA WENT THROUGH BREATHTAKING DEVELOPMENTS, LOHIA AND JAYAPRAKASH FELT DISSATISFIED WITH THE POLICIES OF THE SENIOR LEADERS.

NOAKHALI, DELHI,  
BIHAR! I CANNOT  
STOMACH THESE  
COMMUNAL RIOTS  
ANY MORE. I'M  
GOING TO  
RESIGN FROM  
THE CONGRESS  
WORKING  
COMMITTEE.

YOU ARE RIGHT. WE MUST FORM  
AN INDEPENDENT PARTY.

THE COUNTRY ATTAINED FREEDOM ON AUGUST 15, 1947. IT WAS A DAY OF HAPPINESS, YET THERE WAS SADNESS, TOO, FOR THE COUNTRY HAD BEEN PARTITIONED.

BOTH ELATION AND CELEBRATION  
ARE MEANINGLESS. PARTITION IS  
NOT WHAT WE FOUGHT FOR!



GANDHI UNDERSTOOD JP'S ANGUISH.

PRABHA, AT THIS TIME  
YOUR PLACE IS BY THE  
SIDE OF JAYAPRAKASH.  
YOU MUST GO TO  
HIM.

I WILL GO,  
BAPUJI.

IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR, JP AND HIS  
FRIENDS FORMED THE SOCIALIST PARTY,  
INDEPENDENT OF THE CONGRESS.

... NOW IN A FREE INDIA  
IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD  
THAT TO BE OPPOSED TO  
THE CONGRESS IS NOT TO  
BE OPPOSED TO THE  
NATION, BUT RATHER TO  
CERTAIN POLICIES AND  
METHODS OF THE GOVERN-  
MENT....



JP PLUNGED INTO HIS WORK WITH ADDED ENTHUSIASM. ON NOVEMBER 25, 1949, HE ORGANISED AN UNPRECEDENTED DEMONSTRATION BY PEASANTS IN PATNA.

LEADER OF THE  
PEASANTS!

JAYAPRAKASH  
ZINDABAD!



IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1952,  
THE SOCIALIST PARTY FARED BADLY.  
LATER, WHEN THE BIHAR UNIT OF THE  
PARTY MET—

JP WORKED  
COVERTLY FOR  
THE CONGRESS!

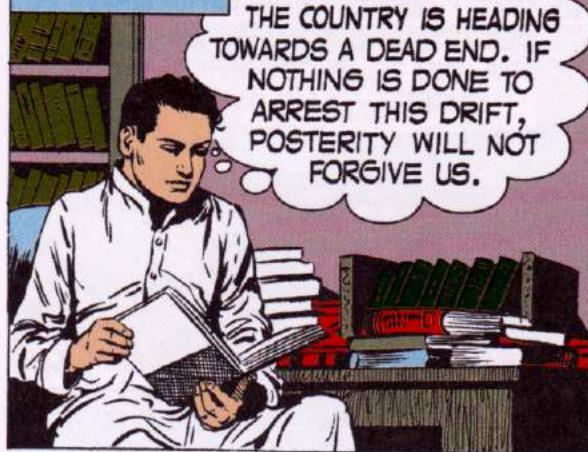
YES, THAT'S  
BECAUSE OF HIS  
FRIENDSHIP WITH  
NEHRU!

JP IS  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE PARTY'S  
DEFEAT!

THE MAN WHO HAD DEDICATED HIMSELF  
TO HIS PARTY, COULD NOT BEAR THESE  
ACCUSATIONS: JP BROKE DOWN.



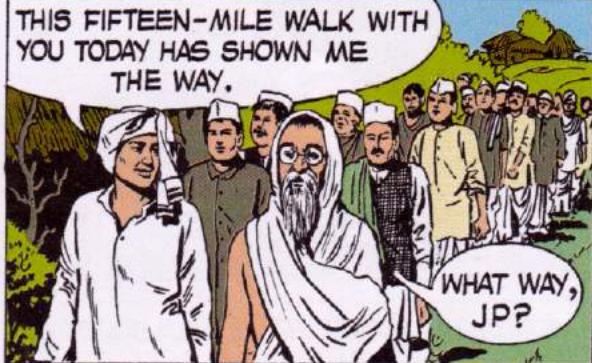
JP WITHDREW FROM ACTIVE POLITICS AND SPENT HIS TIME READING AND THINKING OVER THINGS.



THE COUNTRY IS HEADING TOWARDS A DEAD END. IF NOTHING IS DONE TO ARREST THIS DRIFT, POSTERITY WILL NOT FORGIVE US.

JP BEGAN TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE BHODAN MOVEMENT LAUNCHED BY VINoba BHAVE. THE MOVEMENT WAS AIMED AT PROVIDING LAND FOR THE LANDLESS AND PROMOTING VILLAGE DEMOCRACY.

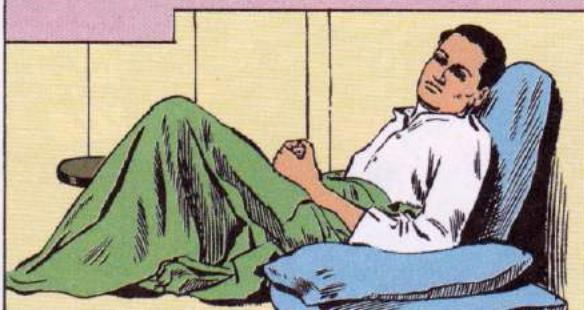
THIS FIFTEEN-MILE WALK WITH YOU TODAY HAS SHOWN ME THE WAY.



THE WAY OF SERVICE AS APART FROM THAT OF POWER.



IN JUNE THAT YEAR, JP UNDERTOOK A TWENTY-ONE-DAY FAST BECAUSE HE FELT HE HAD LET DOWN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS WORKERS TO WHOM HE HAD CONVEYED GOVERNMENT PROMISES WHICH WERE NOT KEPT. HE FELT MORALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DISAPPOINTING THE WORKERS.



LATER, HE JOINED THE BHODAN MOVEMENT. HE PERSUASSED LAND-OWNERS TO DONATE PART OF THEIR LAND TO THE LANDLESS PEASANTS.

I DO NOT POSSESS MUCH. BUT I WILL BE GLAD TO GIVE SOME OF IT TO THOSE WHO HAVE NONE AT ALL.



IN ONE WEEK JP COLLECTED PLEDGES FOR SEVEN THOUSAND ACRES OF LAND.

IN 1954, JP ADDRESSED A HUGE GATHERING OF SARVODAYA WORKERS —

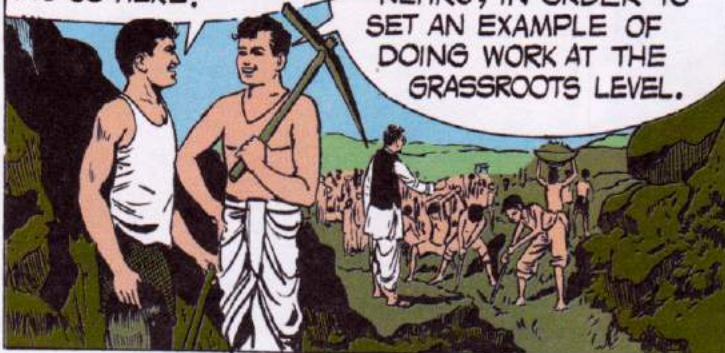
I WANT TO ANNOUNCE TO THIS AUGUST GATHERING THAT I AM RETIRING FROM ACTIVE POLITICS. I DEDICATE THE REST OF MY LIFE TO SARVODAYA AND TO BHOO DAN WORK....



NEARLY SIX HUNDRED PERSONS DECIDED TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE. HE SETTLED DOWN IN AN EXTREMELY BACKWARD VILLAGE IN BIHAR. IN A FEW YEARS, THE AREA WAS TRANSFORMED. DAMS WERE DUG TO TRAP RAIN-WATER AND THEY EVEN TRIED OUT SIMPLE RURAL TECHNOLOGY AND BUILT A GOBAR-GAS PLANT.

ISN'T IT WONDERFUL TO HAVE JAYAPRAKASH DIRECTING US HERE?

YES, HE HAS GIVEN UP THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCEEDING NEHRU, IN ORDER TO SET AN EXAMPLE OF DOING WORK AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL.



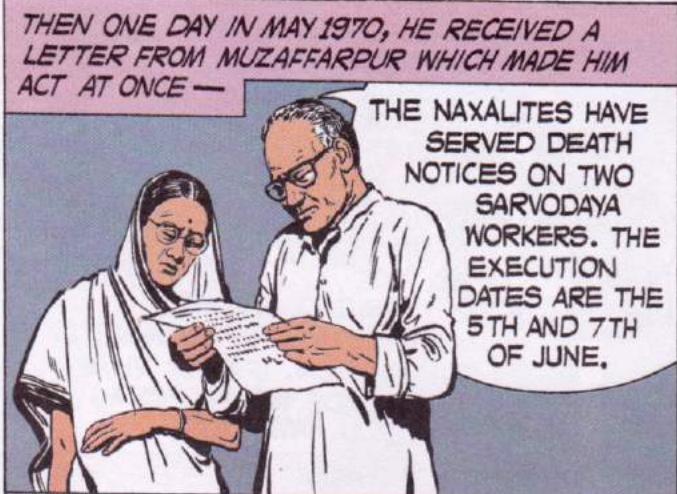
ALTHOUGH RESPONSE TO THE BHOO DAN MOVEMENT WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AT FIRST, IT GRADUALLY BEGAN TO LOSE ITS FIRE.

WE ARE BECOMING STALE AND FLABBY OF SPIRIT. PERHAPS THIS IS BECAUSE OUR WORK INVOLVES NO DANGER TO US AND DEMANDS NO GREAT SACRIFICE.

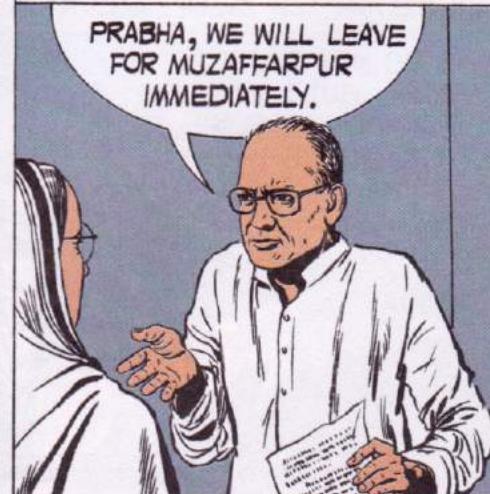


THEN ONE DAY IN MAY 1970, HE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MUZAFFARPUR WHICH MADE HIM ACT AT ONCE —

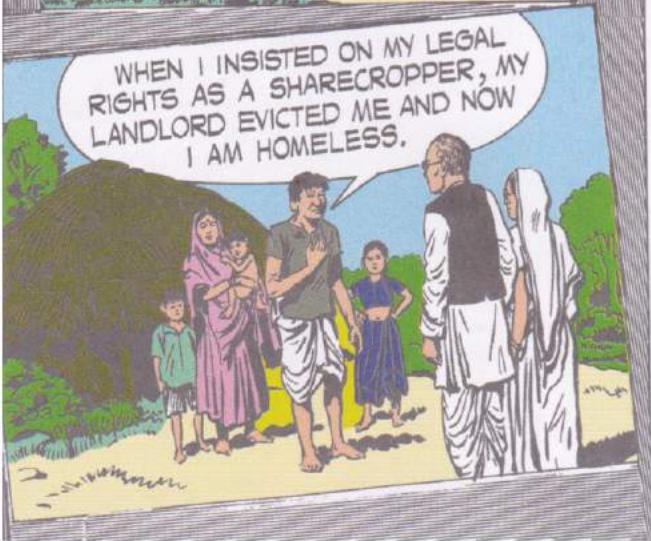
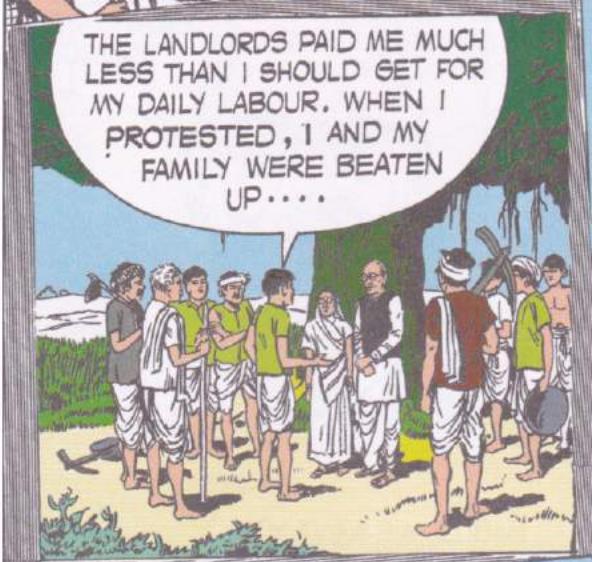
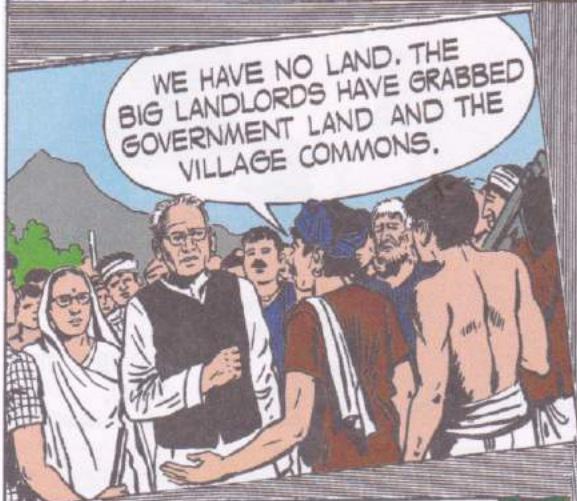
THE NAXALITES HAVE SERVED DEATH NOTICES ON TWO SARVODAYA WORKERS. THE EXECUTION DATES ARE THE 5TH AND 7TH OF JUNE.



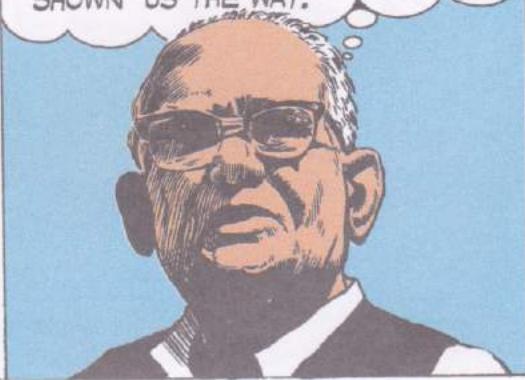
PRABHA, WE WILL LEAVE FOR MUZAFFARPUR IMMEDIATELY.



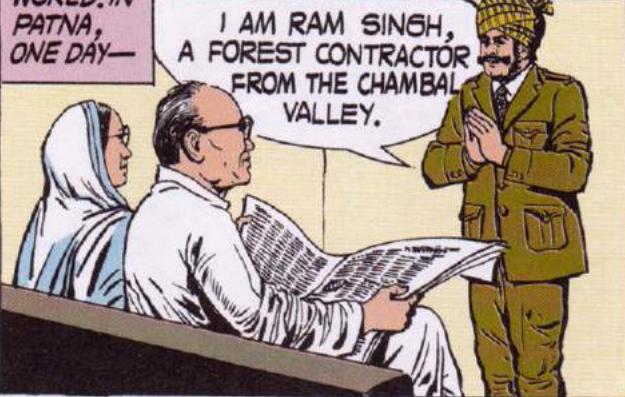
FORTUNATELY, THE THREATENED EXECUTIONS WERE NOT CARRIED OUT. WHEN JP AND HIS WIFE ARRIVED AT MUZAFFARPUR, VILLAGERS POURED OUT THEIR HEARTS TO THEM, POINTING OUT THAT THE RICH HAD PERSISTENTLY DEFIED REFORM LAWS.



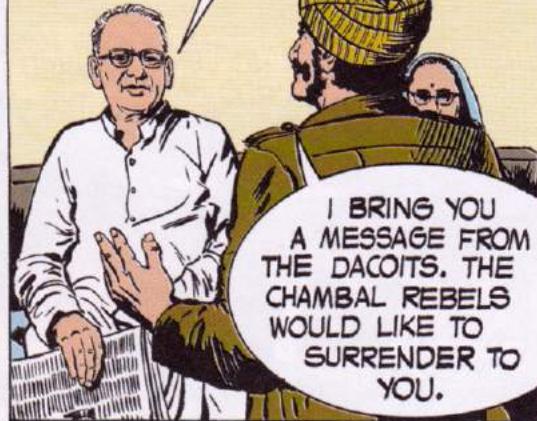
THE GOVERNMENT IS OUT OF TOUCH. THE SOLUTION IS TO INVOLVE PEOPLE DIRECTLY IN THE PROCESS OF SOCIAL CHANGE AND, IF THE SITUATION REQUIRES IT, TO OFFER NON-VIOLENT NON-CO-OPERATION. GANDHIJI HAS SHOWN US THE WAY.



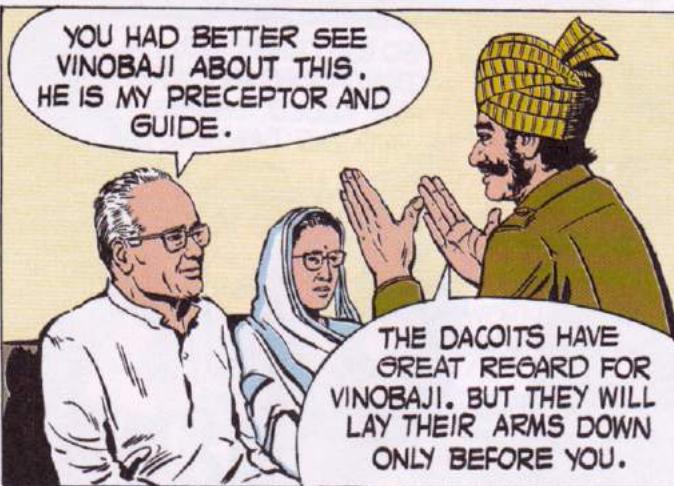
JP APPLIED HIMSELF TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE NAXALITES AND THE NAGAS THROUGH SARVODAYA METHODS. BUT WHAT HAPPENED IN 1971 WAS UNIQUE, AND AMAZED THE WORLD. IN PATNA, ONE DAY—



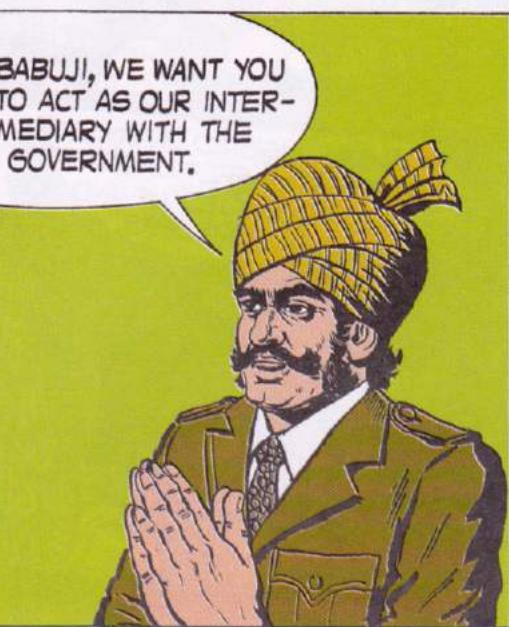
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?



YOU HAD BETTER SEE VINOBAJI ABOUT THIS. HE IS MY PRECEPTOR AND GUIDE.

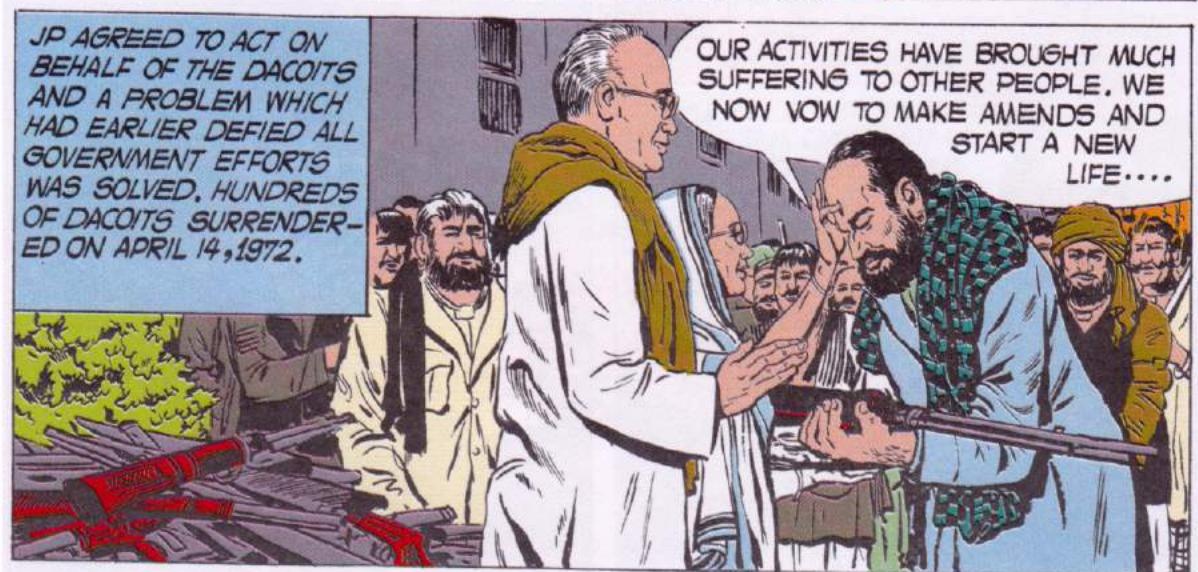
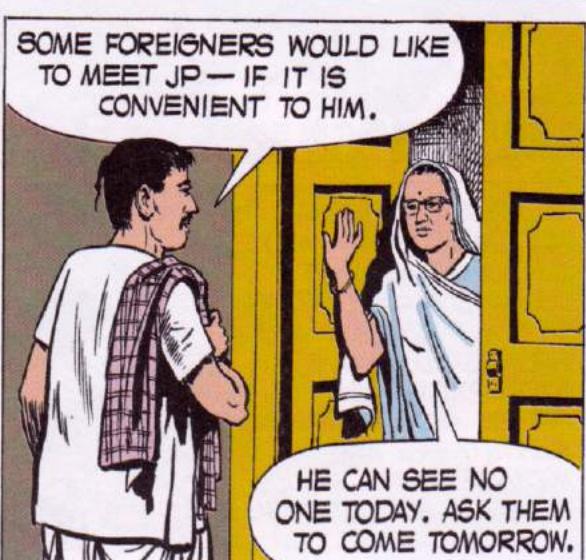
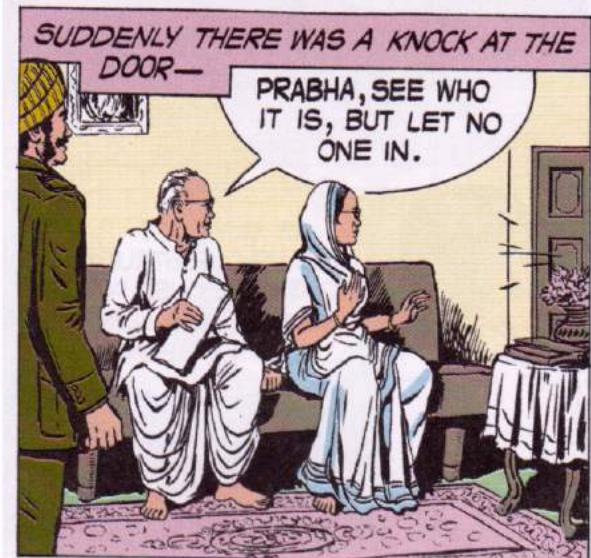
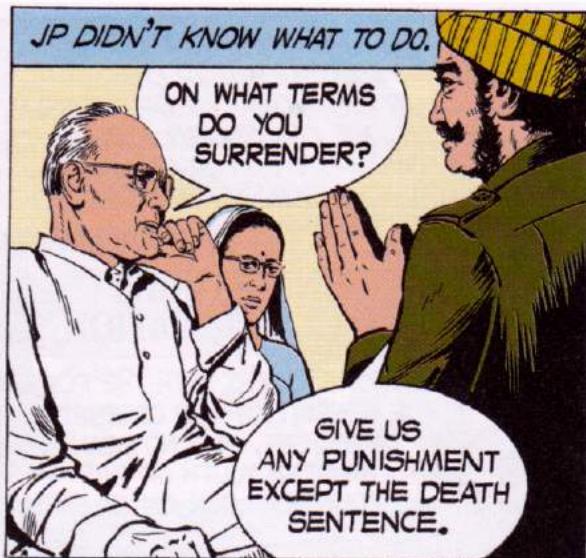
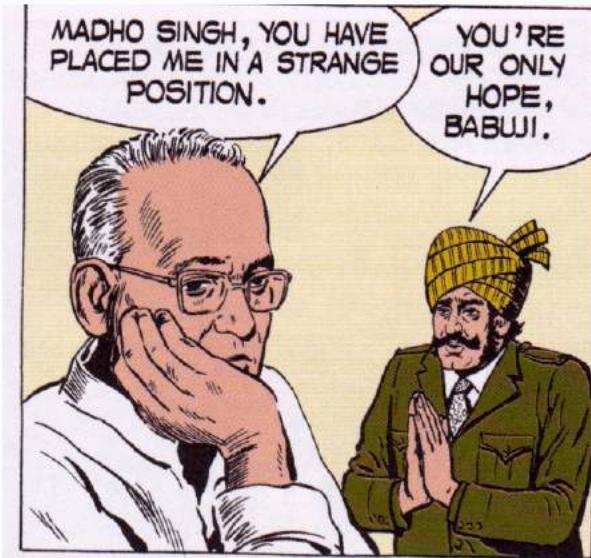


YOU SEEM TO KNOW THEIR MIND.



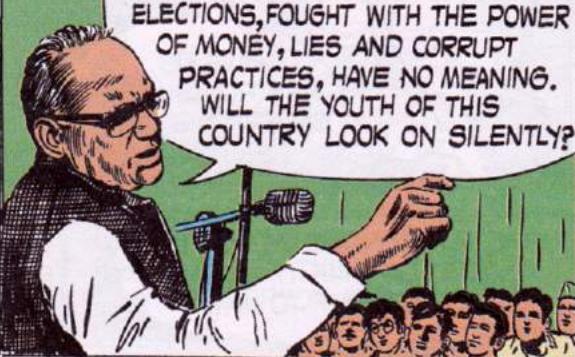
MADHO SINGH WAS THE DREADED DACOIT OF THE CHAMBAL VALLEY ON WHOSE HEAD THERE WAS A PRICE OF RS. 1,50,000.





IN APRIL 1973, PRABHAVATI DIED. THE LOSS WAS GREAT BUT JP DID NOT GIVE UP HIS WORK. IN SPITE OF ILL HEALTH, HE CONTINUED HIS FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC LIFE. THE FOLLOWING YEAR, AT A STUDENTS' MEETING AT VARANASI —

### INDEPENDENT STUDENTS CONFERENCE FEDERATION



HIS EXHORTATIONS PRODUCED THE SHARPEST REACTION IN GUJARAT WHERE A STUDENTS' STRIKE STARTED ON A SMALL ISSUE.

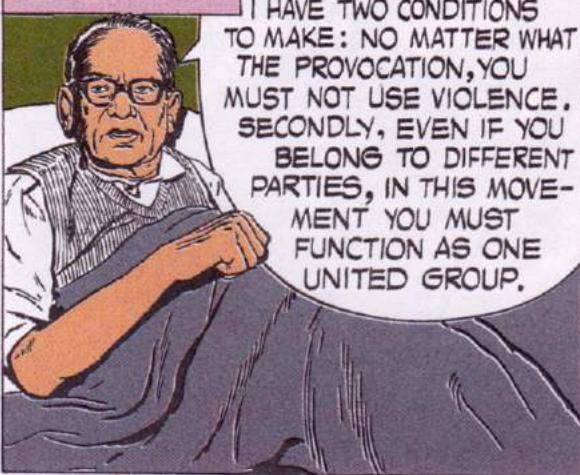


IT CULMINATED IN THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

STUDENTS IN BIHAR FOLLOWED SUIT. THEY BEGAN BY MAKING DEMANDS FOR UNIVERSITY REFORM BUT ALSO PROTESTED AGAINST CORRUPTION, HIGH PRICES AND UNEMPLOYMENT. THERE WAS INDISCRIMINATE POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST THEM.



THEY TURNED TO JP FOR HELP. THOUGH HE WAS ILL AT THAT TIME, HE AGREED TO GUIDE THEM.



AN AMAZING RAPPORT WAS IMMEDIATELY FELT BETWEEN THE 70-YEAR-OLD LEADER AND THE YOUNG STUDENTS.



FOLLOWING JP'S CALL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, A DEMAND WAS MADE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY. THE BIHAR GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, USED BRUTAL MEASURES TO SUPPRESS THE MOVEMENT. ON MARCH 18, 1974, THE POLICE FIRED ON UNARMED DEMONSTRATORS AND EIGHT PERSONS WERE KILLED.



ON APRIL 8, 1974, JP LED A LONG AND SILENT MARCH.

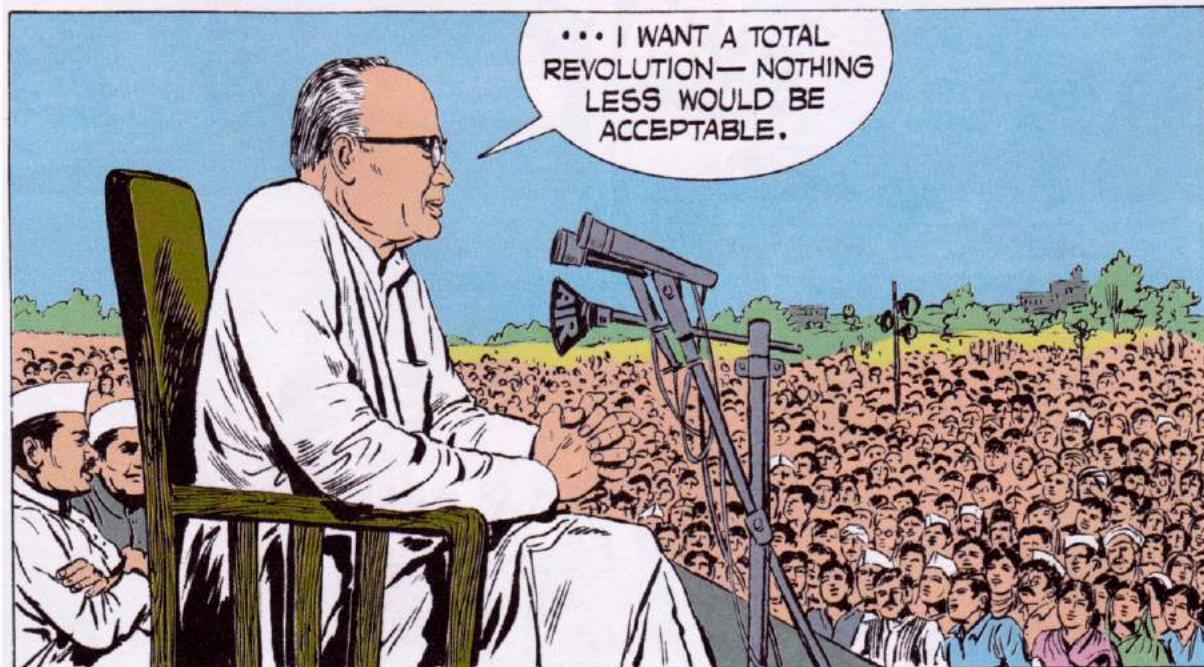


ON JUNE 5, 1974, AT GANDHI MAIDAN IN BIHAR, JP GAVE THE CALL —

I HAVE DECIDED TO FIGHT CORRUPTION AND MISGOVERNMENT, BLACK-MARKETING, PROFITEERING AND HOARDING. I WILL FIGHT FOR A CHANGE IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND FOR A REAL PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY...



... I WANT A TOTAL REVOLUTION—NOTHING LESS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.



JP'S SPEECH WAS LIKE A CLARION CALL. ON NOVEMBER 4 THE SAME YEAR, THE POLICE BRUTALLY BEAT UP PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS IN PATNA. EVEN JP WAS NOT SPARED.

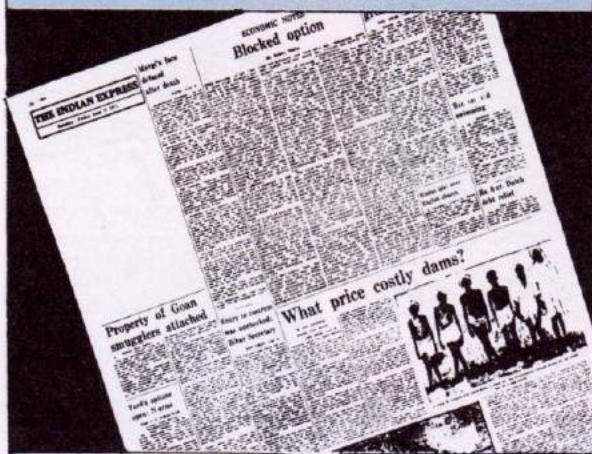


THAT SET IN A CHAIN REACTION AND DEVELOPMENTS TOOK PLACE AT A FAST PACE. ON JUNE 26, 1975—

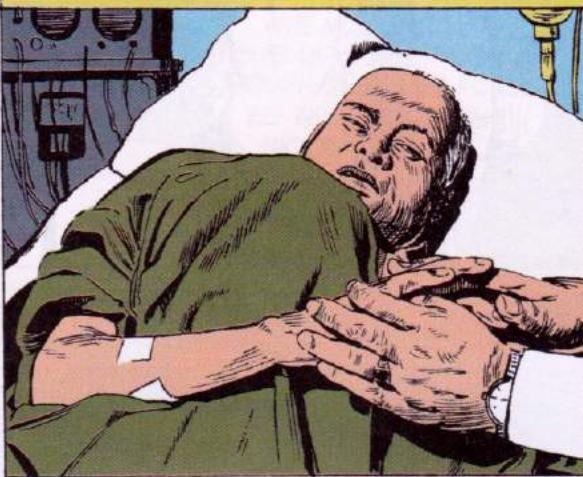


OVERNIGHT, HUNDREDS OF OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE ARRESTED AND JAILED.

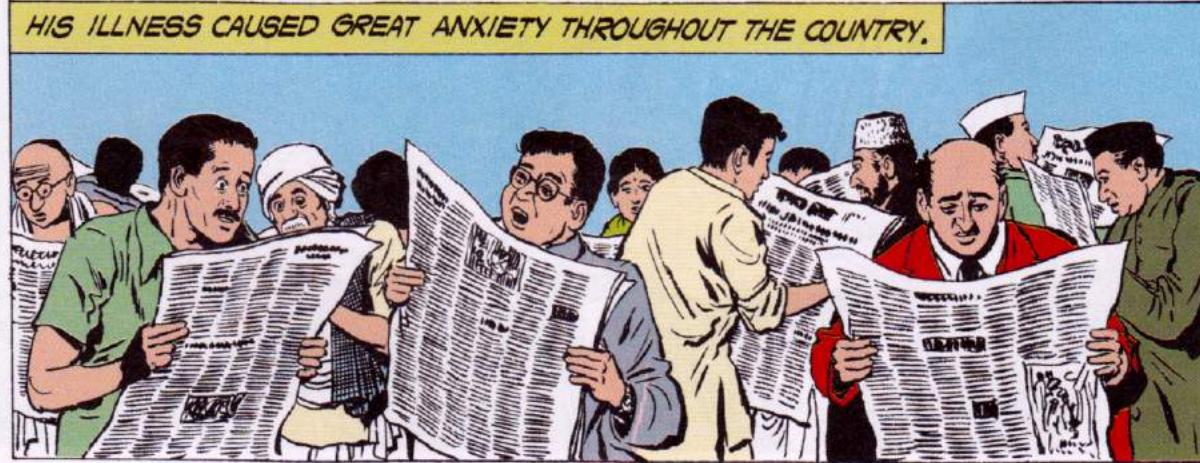
THE PRESS WAS GAGGED BY PRE-CENSORSHIP. IN PROTEST, THE INDIAN EXPRESS LEFT ITS EDITORIAL COLUMN BLANK.



JP, WHO WAS IN JAIL, FELL VERY ILL. ON NOVEMBER 12, 1975, HE WAS FREED ON PAROLE AND TAKEN FOR TREATMENT TO JASLOK HOSPITAL IN BOMBAY.



HIS ILLNESS CAUSED GREAT ANXIETY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.



A MONTH LATER, WHEN HE WAS A LITTLE BETTER, JP WROTE AN OPEN LETTER FROM HIS HOSPITAL BED—

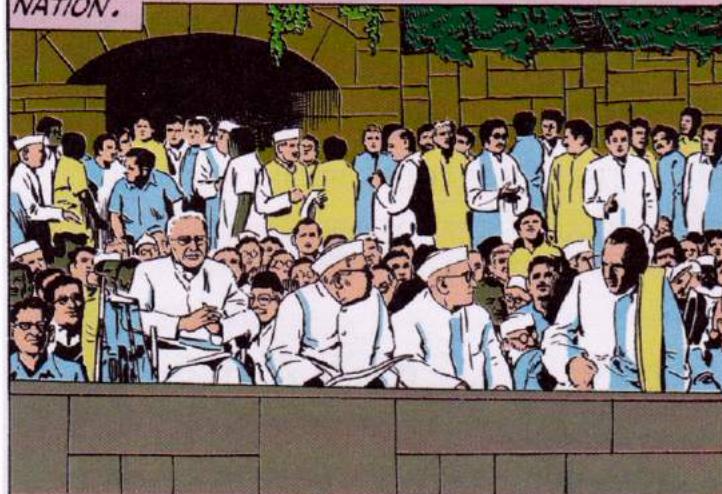
"I FEEL ASHAMED THAT WHILE ALL OF YOU ARE IN PRISON, I AM FREE.... MY ILLNESS HAS CREATED THIS SITUATION. IN SICKNESS I AM MORE HELPLESS THAN I WAS IN JAIL.... THE SACRIFICES OF THE .... THOUSANDS WILL NOT BE IN VAIN. INDIAN DEMOCRACY SHALL SUCCESSFULLY MEET THE PRESENT CHALLENGES AND SHALL, LIKE GOLD, EMERGE GLITTERING ALL THE MORE FOR ITS FIERY TRIAL ...."

JASLOK 12 - 12 - 75

ON JANUARY 18, 1977, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT GENERAL ELECTIONS WOULD SOON BE HELD. OPPPOSITION LEADERS WERE RELEASED. AT THE SUGGESTION OF JP, THE VARIOUS OPPPOSITION PARTIES MERGED TO FORM A SINGLE UNITED PARTY.



IN MARCH 1977, THE RULING PARTY WAS ROUTED AT THE ELECTIONS. ON MARCH 24, 1977, AT RAJGHAT BY THE SIDE OF THE 'SAMADHI' OF GANDHIJI IN DELHI, LOKANAYAK JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN ADMINISTERED AN OATH TO THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT BELONGING TO THE JANATA PARTY AND URGED THEM TO COMPLETE THE UNFINISHED WORK OF THE FATHER OF THE NATION.



HAVING RE-LIT THE TORCH OF DEMOCRACY, JAYAPRAKASH, IN THE BEST TRADITION OF 'YOGIS' KEPT AWAY FROM THE CENTRE OF POWER. HIS ONLY CONCERN WAS TO KEEP THE TORCH OF TOTAL REVOLUTION BURNING.

